

Soviet defector flown to U.S.

ANKARA (AP) — A Soviet pilot who defected to Turkey last month in a MIG-25 jet fighter was flown to the United States Friday after U.S. authorities agreed to grant him asylum, the Foreign Ministry said. Ministry spokesman Ismail Bata told the AP that Soviet air force Captain Alexander Zayev was handed over to U.S. officials during the night and that he left Turkey aboard a U.S. military plane at 3:30 a.m. (0300 GMT). Turkey's decision to immediately return the jetfighter to the Soviet Union shocked U.S. authorities who hoped Turkey would permit them to inspect the aircraft and its advanced technology. Zayev landed the aircraft at the airport of the Black Sea coastal city of Trabzon May 29 and requested political asylum in the United States. The Soviet Union immediately asked Turkish officials to extradite the pilot, saying he stole the jet fighter and shot and wounded a sentry guarding the aircraft at Trabzon airport. Turkey Thursday officially rejected the Soviet extradition request and relayed his asylum petition to the U.S. embassy. Soviet Ambassador Albert Gerasimov expressed disappointment over the decision to let the pilot go to the United States and said the Soviet Union would now ask U.S. authorities to extradite him.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
جوردان تايمز يومية سياسية مستقلة بالانجليزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الاردنية، الراي

Volume 14 Number 4106

AMMAN SATURDAY JUNE 10, 1989, DHUL QAIDEH 6, 1409

Price: Jordan 100 fils; Syria 1 pound; Lebanon 1 pound; Saudi Arabia 1.50 riyals; UAE 1.50 dirhams; Great Britain 25 pence

Jordan celebrates two national anniversaries

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan Saturday celebrates the Great Arab Revolt and Army Day anniversaries commemorating the endeavours of the leaders of the Great Arab Revolt and their armed forces in their struggle to achieve liberation, unity and independence for the Arab Nation.

A statement carried by the Jordan News Agency, Petra, said the revolt, led by Sharif Hussein Ibn Ali, broke out in 1916 to bring liberation and freedom for all Arabs from colonial rule.

The statement paid tribute to the sacrifices made by the Hashemite leaders towards national causes in general and Palestine in particular and said these leaders continued the struggle regardless of the arbitrary measures of the then British colonial rule.

It said that the late King

Abdullah Ibn Al Hussein was able to save large parts of Palestine and East Jordan from British-Zionist plans for the implementation of the Balfour Declaration.

In the commitment to the principles of the Great Arab Revolt, King Abdullah responded to the will and desires of the peoples on both banks of the River Jordan for unity, thus taking an important step towards an overall unity among Arab states, the statement noted.

It said that the East-West Bank unity of 1950 serves as an example to other Arab states and constituted a nucleus for pan-Arab unity. The Great Arab Revolt's principles, the statement said, serve as a course of action for Arabs seeking to pool their resources and their potential to enhance Arab solidarity.

It said that the Jordanian Armed Forces would continue to serve as a shield, protecting the Arab Nation from aggression and from external dangers.

The nucleus of the Jordanian Armed Forces, the news agency said, formed in 1948 upon the directives of the late King Abdullah, and since then the air force has been growing and strengthened, and provided with up-to-date fighter aircraft to defend the homeland.

Petra said that the formation of the People's Army in Jordan was another measure intended to enhance the country's defence capabilities.

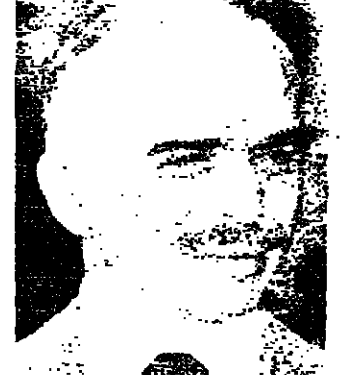
On the Great Arab Revolt and Army Day all government departments and public institutions remain closed and celebrations were being organised in various parts of Jordan.

On the occasion of the two anniversaries, King Hussein re-

ceived congratulatory cables expressing allegiance to the Hashemite leadership and good wishes for Jordan. Cables were sent by Prime Minister Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker, the Upper House of Parliament speaker, the Greater Amman mayor, the chief Islamic justice, the directors of the Public Security Department, the Intelligence Department, and the Civil Defence Department.

The King also received a cable from Chief of Staff General Fathi Abu Taleb. In his cable Taleb said: "The Great Arab Revolt, which your late grandfather Al Hussein Ibn Ali launched against poverty, injustice, and ignorance, constituted the bases of Arab renaissance. This revolt resuscitated nationalist feelings, quest for freedom, and aspiration for a honourable life."

Reviewing the efforts King



HM King Hussein

Abdullah had exerted to establish the Arab army and his martyrdom in the Holy Land, Abu Taleb paid tribute to the special attention King Hussein gives to the development of the army. Abu Taleb pledged sincerity to the noble principles of the revolt.

U.S. vetoes U.N. draft condemning Israeli practices in occupied lands Strike marks 19th month of uprising

Combined agency dispatches

THE PALESTINIAN uprising in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip entered its 19th month Friday with a massive general strike that paralysed most of the occupied territories.

At the United Nations, the U.S., for the second time in four months, vetoed a Security Council resolution condemning Israel's often brutal handling of the uprising.

Palestinians in Arab Jerusalem and the occupied territories staged a general strike to mark the anniversary of the intifada which erupted in December 1987. Since then at least 511 Palestinians have died.

The 650,000 Palestinians of the Gaza Strip remained under a curfew imposed last Saturday and residents of the strip's Nuseirat Palestinian refugee camp were confined to their homes for the 11th consecutive day, a Gaza resident said.

Palestinian sources said youths in the camp defied the curfew Friday to hurl stones at troops who opened fire, wounding one protester. Nuseirat has been under curfew for 32 out of the past 35 days, resident said.

On Thursday, assailants shot a Palestinian man to death on his hospital bed in the West Bank,

and news reports claimed he collaborated with Israel.

Another suspected collaborator was shot and seriously wounded in a separate incident, the reports said.

In the Gaza Strip, Israeli soldiers sealed the homes of three Palestinians accused of throwing firebombs at troops.

An 18-year-old Palestinian was reported wounded in a clash with troops in Jabalyia in Gaza.

The fatal attack occurred in Rafidieh hospital in the West Bank town of Nablus, where Taleb Yamin, 55, was convalescing from injuries sustained 10 days earlier in a beating and stabbing assault, doctors said.

Reports said he was suspected of collaborating with Israel.

U.S. argument

Vetoing Friday's Security Council resolution, the United States said the draft, supported by the other 14 members of the council, was unbalanced.

The United States vetoed a

similar council resolution in February.

Last month it blocked the issuing of a council statement on the same subject because it did not include an appeal for restraint by Palestinians as well as Israel.

The United States proposed a number of amendments to the latest draft but they were not accepted by the seven non-aligned members of the council who sponsored it.

During the debate, which began Tuesday, a steady stream of speakers condemned Israel's actions in suppressing the intifada.

They also criticised violence by some of the 70,000 Israeli settlers living among the Palestinians in the occupied territories and compared the issuing by some settlements of "foreign worker" identity tags to Palestinian labourers to the yellow stars of David Jews were forced to wear under the Nazis.

A number of speakers also referred to a recent report that some Israeli soldiers had used pages torn from a Koran as toilet paper.

The vetoed resolution would have condemned "those policies and practices of Israel... which violate the human rights of the Palestinian people in the occupied territory, as well as vigilante attacks against Palestinian towns and villages and desecration of the Holy Koran."

King receives Arafat's message

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Thursday received a message from Palestine President Yasser Arafat dealing with Palestinian-Jordanian policy coordination vis-a-vis the Middle East question.

The message was delivered to the King by Hani Al Hassan, Arafat's political advisor.

Carbomb kills 4 in west Beirut

BEIRUT (Agencies) — A car-bomb killed at least four people and injured three in west Beirut Friday and gunners shelled ports north of the Lebanese capital.

Arab League mediator Lakhdar Brahimi was due to arrive in Beirut from Damascus and political analysts said the violence might be timed to increase pressure on him.

Security sources said Syrian-backed Lebanese militiamen fired multi-barrelled rocket launchers and field guns at ports and other areas in the enclave controlled by the troops of army commander Major-General Michel Aoun. There were no reports of casualties.

The BMW car in west Beirut, rigged with 50 kilograms of explosives, blew up near a waterfront restaurant only 100 metres from a Syrian checkpoint. The blast threw three of the victims into the sea from pavement cafes.

It was the seventh car bomb explosion in Lebanon this year. A car bomb on May 16 killed 22 people, including religious leader Sheikh Hassan Khaled.

Ibrahim will meet both Acting Prime Minister Salim Al Hoss, head of a Syrian-backed government, and Aoun, who leads a rival cabinet of army officers in east Beirut, official sources said.

They said he would discuss an Arab League plan for a political settlement, including presidential elections, to end Lebanon's 14-year civil war.

The sources said talks would also cover ways to consolidate a shaky ceasefire mediated by Ibrahim May 11 and to end a 11-week sea and land blockade of the Aoun enclave.

The ceasefire halted two months of fierce artillery bombardments, in which more than 360 people were killed.

But Syrian troops and their militia allies have continued to shell the Aoun-controlled coast daily to enforce the blockade.

In Damascus, the foreign ministers of Saudi Arabia, Morocco and Algeria were holding talks with Syrian officials. They were expected to fly to Iraq, which backs Aoun, for further consultations.

An Arab summit in Casablanca last month entrusted the heads of state of the three countries with mediating a solution to the crisis in Lebanon within six months.

Details of the foreign ministers' discussions were not disclosed, but Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Saud Al Faisal said after a meeting in Jeddah Wednesday that the three ministers will travel to Damascus and Baghdad for talks on the issue.

He said they would also contact the permanent members of the United Nations Security Council.

Deng blesses army assault

PEKING (Agencies) — China's senior leader Deng Xiaoping made a dramatic reappearance Friday after being out of sight for a turbulent three weeks during which the Chinese communist state faced its biggest crisis.

The 84-year-old Deng had been rumoured dead or swept aside until he appeared on television praising troops who crushed student-led protests and announcing that his open-door economic policies would not change.

Diplomats had been likening the world's most populous nation to a dinosaur without a head until Deng's reappearance, seemingly designed to quash the view that a leadership China was heading for civil war.

Hundreds of troops took up positions late Friday around universities where the protests began in April. Many students have gone into hiding or left the city since the army violently ended their protests last weekend.

Troops also fanned out through city streets, patrolling on foot and in truck convoys. The Foreign Ministry sent notices to foreign embassies advising that troops would patrol the diplomatic section and suggesting embassy staff stay off the streets at night.

About 50,000 students and supporters staged a peaceful demonstration Friday in Shanghai to mourn the deaths of six people killed in recent anti-government disturbances in the city.

Three provincial capitals also reported arrests Friday as cities across China were wracked by protests against the martial law crackdown in Peking.

The Shanghai protesters gathered in People's Square to conduct funeral rites for the six, who were killed Tuesday night when a train crushed

through a barricade set up on tracks near Shanghai station.

Angry crowds then set fire to the train and fought with firemen and police who came to put it out, injuring more than 20.

In his TV appearance, the diminutive Deng looked frail and spoke haltingly and indistinctly in his rasping Sichuanese accent.

He was manifestly less ebullient than on his previous public appearance May 16, receiving Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev for what many thought would be the climax of his political career.

Since then China has been in turmoil after student-led pro-democracy demonstrations were crushed by the military with the loss of hundreds, perhaps thousands of lives.

But the communist veteran has again showed he is a great survivor and seems, for the moment, to be still on top.

After the founding of the People's Republic in 1949, he was twice purged, suffering humiliation at the hands of Mao Tseung's Red Guards and the wrath of Mao's widow.

Deng, who will be 85 in August, had been widely rumoured to be gravely ill in hospital with prostate cancer.

Wearing a grey Mao Suit, he was shown on television flanked by Premier Li Peng and President Yang Shangkun.

Communist Party General Secretary Zhao Ziyang was present at the meeting. The 69-year-old reformist is believed to have been ousted for opposing the crackdown on China's democracy movement.

Before the commentator took up Deng's speech, he was heard to say "I mourn those people's liberation soldiers and police who were sacrificed."

"Our troops did not let the people



Civilians wounded in clashes with troops in Peking are rushed to hospitals in makeshift ambulances.

down... through this test they proved they are worthy. This fully shows that our troops are always China's defenders, the defenders of the socialist system and the interests of the people," he was quoted as saying.

"Our officers and troops, in the face of mortal danger, did not forget the people, did not forget the guidance of the people and did not forget the interests of the country."

"Our troops are China's great wall of iron and steel," Deng was quoted as saying.

Senior politburo member Qiao Shi, tipped by diplomats as a possible successor to Zhao, was present at the leadership line-up which the commentator said took place in Zhongnanhai, the party's headquarters in central Peking.

Deng praised and mourned troops

who died putting down what he called a "counter-revolutionary rebellion" in Peking Saturday night and Sunday morning.

Life in Peking was returning slowly to normal in the suburbs Friday. More shops were open and street sweepers cleared piles of rotting rubbish.

Late at night large numbers of tanks were seen moving away from central Tiananmen Square, indicating that the armoured column which crushed student-led demonstrations there was leaving the city.

A Western resident counted about 40 tanks and more than 20 armoured troop carriers passing his window.

Students have vowed to make Shanghai the nerve centre of their cause. Some told Reuters reporters in Hong Kong by telephone they were

striving to rebuild the nationwide union shattered by last week's massacre.

"We will fight on until the end," said a student identifying himself only as Wang from Shanghai's prestigious Fudan University.

Thousands of foreigners have fled the chaos of Peking and aid and investment projects have been put on hold. The killings brought widespread international condemnation of China's rulers.

The killings prompted fears among the six million people of Hong Kong, which Britain is due to hand over to Chinese rule in 1997 (see page 8).

On Friday it was announced British Foreign Secretary Sir Geoffrey Howe will visit Hong Kong in early July to assess the problems confronting the colony.

Rafsanjani defends Khamenei as supreme leader

TEHRAN (Agencies) — Iranian Parliament Speaker Hashemi Rafsanjani turned the Friday prayer sermon at Tehran University, billed as a memorial service for Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, into a massive rally for the patriarch's successor.

Rafsanjani's sermon, a mixture of politics and religion, dealt mainly with justifying the surprise choice of President Ali Khamenei as supreme political and religious leader.

He said Khamenei met the conditions outlined in April by Khomeini for his successor, and that settling the issue quickly had stunned the world expecting a power struggle in Iran.

"Obeying Khamenei is obeying Khomeini," he chanted the crowd packing the Tehran University campus and all surrounding streets and avenues for

kilometres. Whole families knelt on prayer mats in the streets.

The early part of the meeting was a eulogy to Khomeini with the crowd chanting "O Khomeini, we swear to remain faithful to your teachings" and "We shall be your soldiers till we die."

Rafsanjani and other leaders sat cross-legged on carpets beneath the rostrum, which held a huge colour portrait of Khomeini draped in black. Four little boys kneeling at its base grasped bunches of red and white gladiolus.

In front of the rostrum a Persian carpet held plates of dates, a traditional offering during memorial services.

Rafsanjani, as usual grasping the barrel of an AK-47 assault rifle, began speaking immediately after the congregation was whipped into a frenzy of slogan-chant-

ing in praise of Khomeini.

Rafsanjani said that Khomeini, although not naming a direct successor, had hinted that Khamenei was qualified. The parliament speaker said Khomeini, had wanted to avoid setting the precedent of the supreme leader picking his own successor.

"But he had views and he transferred them in some ways... he has told us his views in a scattered fashion," Rafsanjani said.

He read from an April 29 letter he said the late revolutionary patriarch wrote to a constitutional review committee.

He said Khomeini, who died of a heart attack Saturday at age 86, wrote that his successor need not be a marja, or supreme religious leader, despite clauses saying that in the constitution.

Rafsanjani quoted the letter as

saying: "From the start I believed and insisted that it was not necessary to be a marja to qualify. A just mujtahed (skilled jurist) who is confirmed by the honourable experts from throughout the country would be sufficient."

Rafsanjani, apparently seeking to defuse reports of a leadership struggle, said: "All this talk of moderate and radicals is just propaganda. When the republic needs us we all draw together."

Diplomats, however, still believe that Rafsanjani could find himself under threat from moves to water down constitutional amendments which would give sweeping powers to the winner of presidential elections in August.

Rafsanjani, the leading presidential candidate, is believed by diplomats to be opposed by radicals led by Interior Minister Ali Akbar Mohtashemi and to face

dissatisfaction over the economy.

shattered by war with Iraq.

"There is no room for doubt,"

Rafsanjani said of Khamenei.

"Do not allow anyone to create doubts in you. What has been done is logically correct and according to religious principles."

Rafsanjani praised Khomeini's son Ahmad for running his father's household. "History must remember his role," he said.

The only sign of tension in Tehran during the week-long holiday to mark Khomeini's death has been a greater than usual number of roadblocks managed by teenage militiamen.

The tens of thousands who attended the first Friday prayers since Khomeini's death reflected the outburst of grief in Iran with many people bursting into tears or beating their chests.

NDP sweeps Egyptian votes

CAIRO (R) — Egypt's ruling National Democratic Party (NDP) won a clear sweep Friday in election results for the Shura Council, a consultative body that recommends laws to parliament. Interior Minister Zaki Badr told a news conference that NDP members won 143 seats — all those in which Thursday's voting produced a result. Badr said that run-off votes would be held next Thursday for the remaining 10 of the 153 seats being contested because no candidate captured the required 51 per cent support. But opposition candidates were eliminated from those races and each of the second-round contests will all be between a pair of NDP rivals. President Hosni Mubarak will appoint 86 members to the council and the rest of the 258 seats have already been filled by candidates who were not opposed. About 10 million people voted of the 14.4 million eligible. The NDP's main challenger, the banned but tolerated Muslim Brotherhood party running in alliance with the Socialist Labour Party (SLP) and the Liberal Socialist Party (LSP) failed to secure any seats.

On the Occasion of the Anniversary of
The Great Arab Revolt and Army Day



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Khamenei says Gulf war peace talks will be successful

TEHRAN (Agencies) — Iran's new supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, dismissing the possibility of renewed fighting with Iraq, has predicted a successful outcome to peace talks with Baghdad.

The Iranian news agency IRNA said Friday that Khamenei made his remarks in response to a message of allegiance from army commanders, including Defence Minister General Mohammad Hussein Jalali.

"The army... is confident of protecting Islam and the Islamic homeland against internal and external enemies under your command," IRNA quoted the minister as saying.

"This does not mean that there is going to be war or that the ceasefire (with Iraq) is shaky. The negotiations are continuing and will achieve desirable results," said Khamenei.

Little progress has been made in several rounds of talks between the belligerents since a U.N.-brokered ceasefire halted fighting in the eight-year long war last August.

Khamenei, chosen as leader of the Islamic republic following the death of Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini Saturday, also holds the largely ceremonial post of president.

Armed forces acting Commander-in-Chief Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani has also spoken of a lasting peace with Iraq.

Iran wants priority given to Iraq withdrawing its forces from 2,600 square kilometres of Iranian territory it says still under occupation.

Iraq says the clearing of the war-debris strewn Shatt Al Arab waterway, which links its main port of Basra to the Gulf, should be tackled before other issues.

No date has yet been set for the resumption of the peace talks.

Iraqi call

Iraqi President Saddam Hussein said Wednesday Iraq was trying to turn the ceasefire with Iran into a lasting peace and establish stable relations, removing prospects of resumed conflict.

Hussein's remarks were his first public comment on Gulf tensions since the weekend death of Khomeini.

He said: "Let us cooperate to make Iran move towards peace, to live freely inside its territory and let the region decide its choice (of living) freely."

He said Iraq's reconstruction of its southern towns of Basra and Fao, within range of Iran's gunfire, was intended to encourage Iran to move towards peace.

"We want to tell Iran that time and life are for construction and not for destruction," he told a delegation from an American-Iraqi group visiting the country.

Baghdad Television quoted Hussein as saying: "We adhere to

the ceasefire and firmly endeavour to convince Iran to turn it into a lasting peace and to establish stable relations, far away from a possible resumption of war."

Iraq-U.S. ties

Talking about Iraq-U.S. relations, badly affected by the U.S. supply of weapons to Iran in 1986 in the so-called Irangate affair, Hussein told the group: "Iraq is not the type of a country which deals with the complexes of the past."

The group, led by Robert Abboud, an American of Arab origin, arrived in Baghdad Wednesday on a three-day visit to explore possibilities for investment in Iraq's post-war reconstruction.

The delegation proposed to Hussein a project called "Mesopotamia, the cradle of civilisation," to improve the "mechanism of understanding and contacts between Iraq and the U.S."

Hussein agreed to the project which calls for organising a U.S. tour for Iraqi archaeological treasures to acquaint Americans with the country's ancient culture.

The agency said the talks also covered bilateral economic and trade talks and participation by U.S. companies in Iran's post-war reconstruction.

No details were available.



Grieving Iranians pay homage to Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini

Khomeini's home becomes a shrine

JAMARAN, Iran (R) — A simply-furnished, two-room concrete house in this Tehran suburb has become a shrine for millions of Iranians.

"This is the palace of Khomeini," a weeping guard told foreign journalists visiting the house where supreme leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini lived for his last nine years.

The house is spartan for the leader of 50 million people. In one section of the main room, which is divided by a curtain, Khomeini used to sleep.

In the other section, a sofa covered with white cloth is the main item of furniture. Shelves hold the Koran and some other books, a mirror and a television

and radio.

In a second, smaller room, Khomeini recently met Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze.

The centrally-heated house has one toilet. Khomeini and his wife were attended by two women servants.

"Nobody lives now in the house. It will be left as a memorial for ever," said an official of the Islamic Culture and Guidance Ministry.

Since Khomeini died Saturday night at the age of 86, tens of thousands of people have filed past the house which their spiritual leader rented for 60,000 rials (\$810) a month.

The area, where his son and

daughter live in separate houses, is full of checkpoints manned by Revolutionary Guards. The main entrance is monitored by video camera.

Khomeini's house is connected to a small mosque where he used to address crowds of worshippers. His chair in the mosque is covered with white cloth and bears a large colour picture, draped with a black ribbon.

Women in chadors wept at the sight of his empty chair. Children as young as five joined adults in beating their heads and chests in grief.

Thousands of breast-beating men and chador-clad women continue mourning at Khomeini's grave into the night.

U.S. 'knows of no Iranian hostages'

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — U.S. officials said Thursday that the United States knows of no Iranian hostages currently held in Lebanon.

The officials responded to a comment by Iran's Parliament Speaker Hashemi Rafsanjani that the United States must help free the Iranian hostages before Iran could help free Western hostages in Beirut.

"He has made the same statements several times before," White House spokesman Martin Fitzwater said. "We are unaware of any Iranian hostages being held in Lebanon. Our position remains the same, that Iran should use its influence for release of the American hostages immediately."

Asked about an appeal by U.S. President George Bush for help in freeing U.S. hostages in Lebanon, Rafsanjani said the United States must use its influence on the right-wing Lebanese Forces militia believed to have kidnapped four Iranian government employees.

"Then you can expect us to do what we can for the release of the other hostages, although we have no responsibility in Lebanon," he said.

There are 18 Westerners missing and believed held hostage in Lebanon, including nine Americans. Pro-Iranian extremists are suspected of holding most of them.

The four Iranians, last seen at a Lebanese forces checkpoint north of Beirut in 1982, are believed to be dead.

Secretary of State James Baker told a luncheon at the National Press Club the United States provided Iran with information on Iranians held by rightist forces in Lebanon in 1982.

He reiterated the long-standing U.S. position that Iran should

help bring about the immediate and safe release of the American hostages in Lebanon.

Rafsanjani also said Iran could not help on the hostage issue while Iranian assets are frozen in the United States.

"The United States has acted like a pirate... if the Iranian assets are released as a sign of goodwill, we in return will do whatever we can," he said.

The United States broke relations with Iran, froze billions of dollars in Iranian assets in U.S. banks and impounded military equipment ordered by deposed Shah Mohammad Reza Pahlavi after radicals seized the U.S. embassy and held 52 Americans hostage in 1979.

Bush said Thursday he had seen no change in Iran's policies since the death of Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, and repeated his offer to improve relations if Iran helped free U.S. hostages held in Lebanon.

The United States, he said, wanted "a change in relations... we like the Iranian people."

"I stated the other day what it would take to have improved relationships, and that would be a renunciation of terror," he said, repeating a statement he made last Monday, two days after the death of Iran's spiritual leader was announced.

"We can't have normalised relations with a state that is branded a terrorist state," he said.

"And secondly they must facilitate the release of American hostages. That is what it would take" to improve relations, he said.

Iran-Soviet ties

Rafsanjani also said Thursday that Khomeini advised days before he died last Saturday that Iran should improve ties with the Soviet Union.

The acting commander in chief of the Iranian armed forces also



Rafsanjani said ties with all the Gulf neighbours except Saudi Arabia were improving.

Rafsanjani said an improvement in ties with Britain — severed over the diplomatic row created by Khomeini's death thrust against another Salman Rushdie for blaspheming Islam — had to be solved by Britain.

On the Soviet Union, Rafsanjani said he had gone to visit Khomeini soon after the speaker's trip to the Soviet Union was confirmed.

"He said 'try to promote your relations with your big northern neighbour' and we will follow this policy drawn by the imam."

The speaker noted that ties with the Soviet Union in economic, political and cultural fields were already strong.

Rafsanjani said the date for his visit to the Soviet Union was not confirmed, although it would take place later this month.

Addressing relations with the Arab States in the Gulf, Rafsanjani said "there is no problem on our side" for improving ties.

"Our goal is promotion of ties and peaceful coexistence," he said.

"We have received positive signals from the Gulf states, except Saudi Arabia," the speaker added.

Israel said to have rejected Syrian offer

TEL AVIV (R) — Israel has turned down a Syrian offer to exchange the body of an Israeli soldier missing in Lebanon for 21 Palestinian fighters held in Israeli jails, Israeli and Palestinian sources said.

Defence ministry officials would not comment saying Israel never reacted to reports of possible prisoner swaps.

The sources said Syria offered to return the body of Sergeant Samir Assad, one of six missing Israeli soldiers, in exchange for 21 Fatah guerrillas captured when Israeli gunboats blasted their boat off the Lebanese coast last year.

Israel had reported only seven guerrillas survived the clash at sea but the sources said 21 were captured alive and held in special prison blocks run by the Shin Bet service.

The exchange proposal also demanded the release of jailed Palestinian leader Omar Al Qassem, a senior member of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP), who died of illness under armed guard in an Israeli hospital last Sunday, the sources said.

There was no mention of the other five missing Israelis.

Sergeant Assad went missing in 1983, a year after Israel launched

its invasion of Lebanon. The DFLP said it captured him but that he was killed in an Israeli air raid in 1984.

Syrian President Hafez Al Assad last year offered to try to locate another missing Israeli soldier, Sergeant Yehuda Katz. Katz went missing in 1982 and his family believes he is being held in Lebanon by the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine — General Command, led by Ahmad Jibril.

In 1985 Israel exchanged 1,150 Palestinian prisoners for three Israeli soldiers held by Jibril's organisation. The swap was widely condemned in Israel. There has been no such exchange since then.

The Jerusalem weekly Kol Hair said Thursday that Israel rejected the Syrian offer in the apparent belief that Qassem was of such value to the Palestinians that a better deal could be negotiated.

Kol Hair said the Fatah guerrillas captured at sea had been on their way to Tel Aviv in a bid to attack the Israeli defence ministry.

The incident spurred the inner cabinet to order the assassination of PLO military commander Khalil Al Wazir by Israeli agents in Tunis last April, the weekly said.

Quayle urges Israel to stop settlements

TEL AVIV (R) — U.S. Vice President Dan Quayle has urged Israel to stop building Jewish settlements in the occupied territories.

"These announcements of new settlements are politically problematic even if they don't go through with it," Quayle said in an interview with the Jerusalem Post published Thursday.

He reaffirmed Washington's strong support for Israel but said new settlements helped Israel's critics in the United States pressure the Zionist state to make "concessions" to the Palestinians.

"It just gives them (the critics) fodder for the cannon fire, and believe me, they want to unload

on Israel," Quayle said.

In a blunt speech last month that surprised American Jews and Israelis, Secretary of State James Baker urged Israel to stop settlements in the West Bank and Gaza.

The Israeli government last December approved between five and eight new settlements in occupied areas, but cabinet wrangling over budget allocations and a timetable for starting the settlements may delay them.

Nearly 70,000 Jews live among 1.7 million Palestinians in the occupied areas. Rightist Israelis argue the settlements help guarantee control over areas considered vital to "national security."

No early breakthrough seen in Sudan talks

KHARTOUM (R) — An early end to Sudan's six-year guerrilla war looks unlikely, despite peace talks between the Sudanese government and southern rebels which are due to open Saturday, according to officials and diplomats.

They say the government's failure so far to implement key clauses of a peace accord signed last November — including a freeze on harsh Islamic laws — have reduced prospects of a breakthrough.

The peace talks, the first between the two sides since April, are due to start five days before the end of a 45-day unilateral ceasefire declared by the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA).

The accord was signed by SPLA leader John Garang and Mohammad Osman Al Mirghani, head of the Democratic Unionist Party (DUP), now the second-largest partner in Prime Minister Sadeq Al Mahdi's ruling coalition.

The officials and diplomats said a report prepared by a team of legal experts submitted to the cabinet last week said the government had yet to freeze Islamic Sharia punishments and abrogate military pacts signed with neighbouring Egypt and Libya.

Both conditions are contained in the SPLA-DUP accord as mandatory for a truce.

The November pact also calls for a ceasefire, the lifting of a state of emergency in force since 1985 and the convening of a national constitutional conference to produce a new power-sharing formula.

Garang said Wednesday he would agree to extending indefinitely a ceasefire if progress is made in peace talks with the government.

Garang also said he was appealing to international humanitarian agencies for aid in feeding more than 1,000 prisoners of war captured by his SPLA.

"It is a problem feeding them in the bush," Garang said at a news conference in Washington. "We believe human rights must be respected both in war and peace."

Garang said he agreed to extend a ceasefire with the government by 15 days when it expired May 31, and would consider extending it another 15 days depending on progress made in Saturday's peace talks.

If significant progress can be made, Garang said he would consider an indefinite extension.

"That's a very positive overture. It means Col. Garang is committed to an instituted peace, a permanent ceasefire," democratic congressman Mickey Leland, Garang's host in Washington, said later.

Vorontsov calls for Saudi-Soviet relations

KUWAIT (AP) — A senior Soviet official was quoted here Friday as urging Saudi Arabia to establish diplomatic relations with the Soviet Union and to arrange a new reconciliation meeting for an end to the Afghan rebel fighting against Kabul.

"I spoke to the Saudi monarch, King Fahd, about the exchange of ambassadors between our two countries when I was in Saudi Arabia. We are still waiting a Saudi response," said Yuli Vorontsov, first deputy foreign minister in an interview published in the Kuwaiti newspaper Al Anbaba.

Vorontsov, an ambassador extraordinary on Afghanistan, led the Soviet team for the first face-to-face negotiations with the Afghan rebels during talks hosted by Saudi Arabia last December. The kingdom, a staunch supporter of the rebels in their war against the Soviet-backed government in Kabul, arranged the talks despite the absence of diplomatic

ties with Moscow.

Saudi leaders had indicated that the Soviet pullout of an estimated 100,000 troops from Afghanistan would encourage the exchange of ambassadors. The kingdom was the first country to recognise the interim government formed by the rebels after the Feb. 15 withdrawal.

Vorontsov said that the Kremlin was urging the Riyadh government to arrange another meeting on the Afghan question, but added "Saudi Arabia is reluctant to do so. But we are hopeful that eventually Saudi Arabia will agree."

Vorontsov said that the kingdom's support to the Mujahadeen would not adversely affect Soviet relations.

"The Saudi attitude towards the situation on Afghanistan will not affect our relations with it, because Saudi Arabia is not conducting a direct act against the Soviet Union," he said.

Vorontsov said that the fight-



Yuli Vorontsov

ing in Afghanistan was taking "a different turn."

He reiterated Kabul charges that generals in neighbouring Pakistan, as well as American experts and Arab volunteers were helping the rebel forces.

"After being an internal conflict, the war is now becoming a confrontation between Afghanistan and Pakistan, with the rebels receiving huge assistance from Pakistan. The United States as well as experts and volunteers from many countries."

Najibullah says Bush and Bhutto must be realistic

KABUL (R) — Afghan President Najibullah has firmly rejected U.S. and Pakistani calls for his government to step down as a precondition for peace in Afghanistan, saying his government is a reality all must face.

"This seriously is not a political solution," Najibullah said about a possible resignation in a statement to the official Afghan news agency Bakhtar Thursday night.

He said a political solution to the 10-year war could not be achieved without the participation of his ruling People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan (PDPA).

Najibullah said his Soviet-backed government was the legitimate government of Afghanistan, which was recognised by the United Nations.

"We hope the United States and Pakistan will accept reality," said Najibullah, who has ruled

the war-ravaged country since taking over the presidency in 1987.

He welcomed moves by President George Bush and Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto towards a political settlement of the conflict, which has killed one million people and turned five million Afghans into refugees.

He said there was a contradiction in their decision to go on supplying arms to the Mujahadeen guerrillas, who are fighting to oust him after helping to secure the withdrawal of Soviet forces.

Both the United States and Pakistan have said they want to see the removal of Najibullah, a former head of the Afghan secret police, as a precondition for peace.

Washington calls his communist-backed government illegitimate and wants it replaced by a "non-

aligned, representative government."

Bhutto, during her trip this week to the United States, has pushed Bush to open discussions with the Soviet Union on how a settlement could be achieved, and to seek Moscow's backing for the removal of Najibullah.

In an interview with Reuters Wednesday, Afghan Foreign Minister Abdul Wakil rejected any suggestion that Najibullah should step down in advance of new elections, saying it would weaken the PDPA.

"They have to settle all problems with President Najibullah, nobody else," Wakil said. "This is our leader, they should sit for talks with him," he said about the Western-backed rebels.

Najibullah has offered a series of peace proposals following the withdrawal of Soviet forces last February.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION	
Tel: 773111-19	
PROGRAMME ONE	
15:30	Koran
15:40	Programme review
15:45	Children programme
17:05	Educational programme
17:30	The Friends
18:05	News summary
18:15	Message from Iraq
18:25	A play by Shakespeare
19:15	Local programme
19:40	Programme review
20:00	News in Arabic
20:30	Arabic series
21:30	Local programme
22:30	Arabic play
23:00	News in Arabic
23:10	Play continued
PROGRAMME TWO	
18:00	Couilles
19:00	News in French
19:15	Documentary
19:30	News in Hebrew
19:45	Natural Phenomena
20:00	News in Arabic
20:30	Growing Pains
21:00	Alfred Hitchcock presents
21:30	Saturday Variety Show
22:00	News in English
22:30	Canyon
PRAYER TIMES	
03:50	Fajr

CHURCHES	
05:25	(Source) Dula
12:35	Dhuhr
16:15	'Asr
19:45	Maghreb
21:15	'Isha
CHURCHES	
St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swifeth. Tel. 810740	
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 632785	
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590	
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440	
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757	
Terrence Church Tel. 622366	
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541	
Anglican Church Tel. 625383, Tel. 625543	
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331	
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261	
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751	
Armenian International Church Tel. 635325	
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 611293	
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 815817, 821264	
WEATHER	
Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.	

It will be fair and windy with westerly moderate. In Aqaba, it will be dusty with northerly moderate and calm sea.	
USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS	
NIGHT DUTY	
AMMAN:	
Dr. Akram Samhan	894611
Dr. Youssef Al Hozam	625478
Dr. Mahmoud Al 'Awdi	741391
Dr. Mahmoud 'Alien	894866
Fires pharmacy	661922
Ferdous pharmacy	778336
Al Asena pharmacy	637055
Nairoudh pharmacy	626762
Al Salam pharmacy	636730
Yacoub pharmacy	649493
Shurciani pharmacy	637660

Water Authority	680100
Jordan Electricity Authority	815615
Electric Power Company	636381
RJ Flight Information	08-53200
Queen Alia Intl. Airport	08-53200
HOSPITALS	
AMMAN:	
Hussain Medical Centre	813813/32
Khadija Maternity, J. Amn.	642816
Al-Khadra Maternity, J. Amn.	642412
Jabal Amman Maternity	642362
Malhas, J. Amman	636140
Palestine, Shamsan	664171/4
Shamsan Hospital	669131
University Hospital	845845
Al-Munasher Hospital	667277/9
The Islamic, Abdal	666127/37
Al-Ahli, Abdal	664164/6
Italian, Al-Muhajreen	771101/3
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh	775111/25
Army, Marka	891611/15
Queen Alia Hospital	802240/30
Amal Hospital	674155
ZARQA:	
Zarqa Govt. Hospital	(09)983323
Zarqa National Hospital	(09)991071
Ibn Sina Hospital	(09)986732
IRBID:	
Princess Basma Hospital	(02)275555
Greek Catholic Hospital	(02)772775
Ibn Al-Nafis Hospital	(02)247100



Prince Mohammad visits PSD

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Prince Mohammad, the personal representative of His Majesty King Hussein, is briefed Thursday on the activities and programmes of the Public Security Department (PSD). Prince Mohammad met with PSD Director General Abdul Hadi Al Majali during his visit to the PSD headquarters.



Graduation

AMMAN (Petra) — The International Baccalaureate School in Amman graduated its fifth batch of students who completed their secondary education. Their Royal Highnesses Crown Prince Hassan and Princess Sarvath attended the graduation ceremony which was held at the Baccalaureate School and in the presence of the students' parents and relatives, several Cabinet ministers and members of the school's board of trustees.

Princess Sarvath addressed the ceremony, outlining the school's development and its curricula, paying tribute to the school staff and administration for their strenuous efforts which made the school a real success.

Other speeches were delivered by the school headmaster and several graduates.

Princess Sarvath later distributed the diplomas to the 23 graduates and awards to those excelling in their courses. She also distributed gifts and awards to the members of the staff (Petra photos).



Arab firms to be given priority in road projects

AMMAN (Petra) — A special seminar dealing with transport on roads in the Arab World has discussed giving Arab contracting companies the priority to carry out road projects. Arab Land Transport Federation (ALTF) Secretary General Adnan Mufit said.

Discussing the recommendations of the seminar, which the ALTF held in Tartous last week, Mufit said the seminar adopted a number of recommendations related to safety on roads, providing services on international highways, and standardisation of road signs.

He added that the seminar also called for training personnel in the field of transport, including university courses related to this field, and improving public transport services.

The participants lauded the efforts the Arab transport ministers exerted through their recent endorsement of the strategy of transport in the Arab World.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

- ★ An archaeological exhibition entitled "The Treasures of Hasma Desert" at the Department of Antiquities Registration Centre.
- ★ An art exhibition by three North African artists at Abdul Hamid Shoman Foundation.
- ★ An art exhibition by Ahmad Abu Othman at the Housing Bank Gallery.
- ★ An art exhibition by Jordanian and Arab artists at Al Wasiti Art Gallery.
- ★ An art exhibition entitled "Tents and Stones" by Samia Al Zuro at Alia Art Gallery.
- ★ An art exhibition entitled "Study in Line and Colour" by Dodi Tabas at the Petra Bank Art Gallery.
- ★ An exhibition of paintings by mentally handicapped children at Nazak Al Hariri Special Education Centre.
- ★ The annual flower exhibition of YWCA at the Jordan Intercontinental Hotel.
- ★ An exhibition of cartoons by Omar Sha'ban at the University of Jordan.
- ★ A lecture by Dr. Siegfried Stillemann on "Bertolt Brecht as a key figure in the 20th century theatre" at the Goethe Institute — 7:00 p.m.

Sharif Zaid in Ma'an

Government to slash unemployment

MA'AN (Petra) — Prime Minister Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker Thursday paid a visit to Ma'an which recently witnessed riots over price rises, and met with the governor and representatives of various sectors to discuss development plans and services to the people of the governorate.

The prime minister told a public rally in the city that the government was determined to overcome difficulties that impeded the development of public services.

He said the government will deal with the problem of unemployment "by creating new jobs in coordination with the concerned parties; and was keen on maintaining open channels of dialogue and communication with the local residents" in compliance with His Majesty King Hussein's letter of designation to the government.

Sharif Zaid, who was accompanied on the visit to Ma'an by Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Salem Masaadeh urged civil servants and government officials to provide all possible facilities for the public in their respective departments.

The prime minister promised government support to local organisations to establish agricultural cooperative societies which, he said, are designed to reclaim land and develop farmlands.

Sharif Zaid visited the municipality where he heard Mayor Mousa Fayyad outline the municipality's programmes and housing schemes and present requests and demands to help municipality pursue its endeavours.

The prime minister was briefed on the health services in Ma'an Governorate by its Governor Eid Al Qataneh with whom he reviewed the general conditions in the governorate.

The residents called on the government to start restoration work on the late King Abdullah's home in the city of Ma'an which would serve as one of the city's main landmarks.

Coinciding with the prime minister's visit, Ma'an held celebrations marking the country's Independence and Army Day and the Great Arab Revolt anniversary.

A public rally was held in the city square where poets recited verses and folk troupes presented a performance of songs and national dances.



Prime Minister Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker Thursday meets Ma'an dignitaries during a visit to the governorate. Below, the prime minister is mobbed by the citizens of Ma'an (Petra photo)



CAEU reduces '89 budget; seeks to develop Arab Common Market

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — In an attempt to reevaluate its course of action and reassess its internal structure in the face of shrinking funds and toughening economic conditions, the Council for Arab Economic Unity (CAEU) Wednesday decided to reduce its 1989 budget by \$350,000 and to spend its 1990 \$1.15 million budget mainly on developing the Arab Common Market (ACM), setting up joint Arab projects and creating a wider base for economic cooperation in the Arab World.

"This would consolidate the basic structure of Arab economic action," CAEU Secretary General Hassan Ibrahim told a press conference Thursday marking the end of the council's 51st round of meetings here.

The ACM, he said, should be given its due role in boosting trade between CAEU members and other Arab countries through increased coordination, seminars and the execution of projects of commodity complementarity.

Joint Arab economic action, Ibrahim noted, had for years suffered because of the difficult economic conditions on both the regional and international levels.

In that context, the CAEU

semi-annual meeting has stressed that the way to face these conditions are through concentrating efforts on the works of regional economic groupings such as the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), the Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) and the Arab Maghreb Union (AMU).

"We look positively at the establishment of regional economic groupings because their goals are congruent with the goals of the agreement for joint economic action," Ibrahim said. "These groupings present a new element in the context of joint Arab work," he added.

Ibrahim noted that regional groupings in other parts of the world, such as the European Common Market, were created in an attempt to deal collectively and comprehensively with economic difficulties through an enlarged base of joint action.

He expressed hope that the GCC, ACC and AMU would complement achievements of the CAEU and said that further developing the ACM would have positive ramifications on the overall Arab economic situation.

A 1964 CAEU resolution called for the establishment of the ACM among the 13 member states in order to achieve free and unrestricted trade among Arab countries. But a statement issued last

year on the eve of the 23rd anniversary of the formation of the ACM said that despite its achievements, the ACM was still far below the aspirations of its member countries.

The secretary general described last week's two-day meeting as a turning point for joint Arab economic action. "I expect, and indeed I hope it is not merely false optimism, that the positive and effective period ahead of us will rejuvenate joint Arab action," he said.

The 13 members, he added, had responded positively to suggestions and demands of the general secretariat, especially in terms of financial contributions. In other decisions arrived at during Wednesday's meeting, the council agreed to lay off 15 employees and cut the salaries of senior employees by up to 25 per cent in the face of the "drastic financial situation" it faces.

The CAEU is owed \$4 million in arrears from most of its 13 member states, and with its \$2 million debt has been unable to pay salaries for the staff during the past four months.

Libya, which Wednesday assumed the one-year rotating post of CAEU chairman, last week paid \$915,000 in dues to the cash-strapped body. Kuwait, which finances nearly a third of

the budget and owes the council \$1 million in arrears, was expected to resume its payments soon, Ibrahim said.

The UAE has already provided \$100,000 of the half a million it owes the council. Egypt, which was formally welcomed back into the Arab economic fold on Wednesday, has pledged \$234,000. Funding quotas for the CAEU budget were kept at the same level.

The council also urged its member states to offer greater trade concessions to products from the Israeli-occupied territories. "The council calls on Arab governments to offer maximum facilities and exemptions to agricultural and industrial products of the Israeli occupied territories as a gesture of support to the steadfastness of Palestinians under occupation," one conference resolution read.

The council, which in 1964 passed a resolution calling for the establishment of the ACM among its 13 members, also urged member states to facilitate trade among themselves.

The CAEU groups Jordan, Iraq, North and South Yemen, Egypt, Palestine, Syria, Mauritania, Somalia, Sudan, Libya, Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates.

Regional conference urges exchange of information on water resources

AMMAN (Petra, J.T.) — Delegates to a regional conference on improving training programmes and charting long term strategies on water resources concluded a four-day meeting in Amman by issuing recommendations, calling for greater measures of cooperation among countries of the Arab region and more training of technicians and workers in water-related fields.

The delegates called on the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA),

which organised the meeting, to prepare a draft agreement on the establishment of a regional training centre on water affairs in cooperation with the Islamic Development Bank which can finance the project in conjunction with the World Bank.

Addressing the closing session Thursday, Minister of Water and Irrigation Mohammad Saleh Al Kilani echoed the delegates call for continued and closer cooperation between the countries of the West Asia region in water-related affairs, and said that his ministry was ready to back any move in this direction.

Kilani called on the Islamic Bank and ESCWA to provide financial and technical help for the "region of water-related regional centre that would orga-

nise training and provide better water-related services.

Several working papers were discussed by the meeting, which was addressed by an ESCWA representative, who stressed that the scarcity of water resources in West Asia region constituted one of the major obstacles that impeded efforts to promote socio-economic development in the region.

Kilani had told the meeting that Jordan was striving to provide the highest level of training and skill to its technicians and workers in water installations.

Kilani told the meeting that the cost of water was continuing to rise in view of increasing demand and growing population, and Jordan's water needs were expected to triple by the end of the century.

AMBC makes over \$2m in profits in 1988

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Arab Maritime Bridge Company (AMBC), which groups Egypt, Iraq and Jordan, made \$2,116,108 in profits from its operations in 1988 which included the transportation of passengers and goods along the Aqaba-Nweibeh land-sea route, according to an announcement here Thursday.

The company's fleet of vehicles and ferry boats transported 646,603 passengers in the past year, registering an increase of 38.7 per cent over the 1987 operations, according to the announcement made during the company's general assembly meeting attended by ministers of transport in the three countries.

The announcement said also that the company last year transported 31,097 cars, 8,557 trucks and 2,284 buses on board the ferries operating between the two terminals.

The general assembly meeting endorsed a general report on these operations and a report by the company's board of directors on the financial situation in the first quarter of 1989.

The report showed more activity in transporting passengers and vehicles across the route in the first four months of this year, but released no figures.

Minister of Transport and Telecommunications Hikmat Al Khammash said that the Aqaba-Nweibeh route fulfilled the dreams of the Arab World by linking its Asian and African

flanks, "thus boosting the nation's economic, trade, social and political stand, and paving the way for further progress and development in the Arab Region."

Iraqi Minister of Transport and Telecommunications Mohammad Hamzeh Al Zubeidi called on the governments of Egypt, Jordan and Iraq to give all possible support for the company's operations which, he said, are bound to bolster the national economies and boost trade.

Egyptian Minister of Transport Suleiman Mitwalli described cooperation between the three countries through the company as "exemplary" and "reflecting their strong ties and determination to pursue efforts towards the achievement of further progress."

The three ministers held a separate meeting before the general assembly session during which they exchanged views on the company's operations. Khammash and Zubeidi earlier had a meeting with Prime Minister Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker to discuss transport issues.



Arab Maritime Bridge Company's general assembly Thursday meets in Amman (Petra photo)

Seminar to discuss conducting census

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan and 10 other Arab countries and three U.N. organisations Saturday open a training seminar in Amman on organising and managing censuses and improving the skill and performance of personnel conducting censuses in West Asian countries.

The seminar has been organised by U.N. Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) and financed by the United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA). Dr. Tayseer Abdul Jaber, ESCWA's executive secretary general, said that Jordan, Iraq, North Yemen, Syria, Bahrain, Qatar, Kuwait, Oman, Saudi Arabia, and Palestine will be represented at the seminar, in addition to the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organisation, the United Nations educational Sci-

entific and Cultural Organisation UNESCO as well as ESCWA. The seminar was organised in view of the rising cost of censuses conducted at the national level in the West Asian countries, Abdul Jaber said in a statement on the eve of the seminar.

He said the participants will discuss all aspects of work in the field of conducting a census and means of conducting this task at the minimum cost so as not to increase the economic and financial burden on the concerned governments.

He said that the participants will hear lectures on census work, planning programmes for census, the process of counting and registering homes and residents, and analysing and assessing the results of the census as well as the costs involved.

NATIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

NURSES TRAINING PROGRAMME: Minister of Health and Social Development Zuhair Malhas has opened a nine-month training programme for nurses at the Health Ministry Teachers Training Institute in Amman in cooperation with the Italian government. The 12 enrolled nurses will be trained in caring for the sick. They will also attend lectures in health education, psychology, protection against communicable diseases, as well as the use of computers (Petra).

CULTURAL COOPERATION: The Jordanian Writers Association (JWA) President Thursday discussed with the first secretary at the Soviet Embassy in Amman means to promote cultural and scientific cooperation between the association and similar associations in Soviet Union. They also agreed to arrange for exchange of visits between Jordanian and Soviet writers and publish their works in both countries in Arabic and Russian. The Soviet first secretary expressed appreciation for the achievements the JWA attained in the field of culture and literature.

TOURISM IN AQABA: Tourism in Aqaba has hit a record high as people converged on Jordan's southern resort following measures to reduce hotel rates in the city. A number of people expressed support for all measures designed to encourage internal tourism, noting the need to improve facilities in the city (Petra).

NEW UNIVERSITY GRADUATES: A total of 1,953 students from the University of Jordan's Faculties of Medicine, Pharmacy, Nursing, Engineering, Medicine, and Agriculture graduated Thursday. Deans of these faculties delivered speeches on this occasion congratulating the graduates and explaining the role these faculties play in serving the Jordanian society and contributing to its progress. A total of 690 students from the faculties of Shari'a (Islamic Law), education, law, and physical education graduated Wednesday (Petra).

UNESCO PROJECTS: Minister of Education, Dr. Abdullah Nsour, and the Director of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) for Education in the Arab World Dr. Mohammad Kazem, have discussed cooperation as well as projects the UNESCO intends to implement in Jordan (Petra).

Jordan Times

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The Jordan Times is published daily except Fridays.
Subscription and advertising rates are available from the
Jordan Times Advertising Department.

The heart of matter

THE information revolution makes for hectic times. In the last two weeks China has erupted into chaos, the Soviets have opened their first parliament in seventy years, Poland has become the first Warsaw bloc country to allow opposition to contest elections, Ayatollah Khomeini has been buried amid gruesome scenes in Tehran, NATO and OPEC leaders have held important summits. Sometimes the news focus changes so fast it makes any attentive reader dizzy. Such an explosion of stimuli cannot be helped, and indeed in some ways is almost providential. Just as we live in the first age to be confronted by truly global issues — nuclear weapons, the ozone layer, the risk of population explosions — so we live in the first age that has been given the means of world dialogue and coordination via the information revolution. But it also has its costs, the most critical of which is a blurring of the distinction between what is newsworthy and what is important.

Consider the Palestinian intifada from this angle. Every day in the West Bank and Gaza, there are more deaths, injuries, homes destroyed. But what happens everyday simply isn't news in the new world environment. It becomes a dull constant instead of a dramatic variable. It recedes into the nether layers of consciousness. This in turn makes it easier for the Israelis to play it down, world opinion is less pressing, and avoid those difficult decisions — even within Israeli society, the impact becomes normalised.

But the situation is at what pessimists call 'a critical juncture', and optimists 'a window of opportunity'. The Palestinian problem is eminently solvable — now. Israeli military chiefs assure their doubting public that a Palestinian state would not present a security challenge, the PLO has rallied cohesive and credible support for its initiatives. If no breakthrough is made during this period — and none can say how long it will last — there may not be another chance.

The psychological problem though is that the slow deterioration, the evaporation of an unprecedented chance of peace, is invisible. The Israeli public has absorbed the initial shock of realising that their sons and brothers were engaged in brutal acts of repression, that the army is an army of occupation. They have either confronted it openly, like the peace activists who support the Palestinian state, paranoically, like the settlers who want to throw indigenous Palestinians off their own land, or, like the vast majority in the middle, they have sublimated it. World opinion has been drawn elsewhere, and the U.S. foreign policy makers who could make such a difference no longer have the heat on them. There are, after all, always hotter issues.

For their part, it is not the first time Israeli policy makers have used diversions in the international media. The invasion of Lebanon in 1982 only received as much attention as it did because the British-Argentine war in the Falklands, with which it was timed to coincide, finished unexpectedly early. The intifada too has been punctuated by threats to attack Syria and Saudi Arabia which were obviously aimed at spreading fear of a full scale war in the Middle East.

In the next two weeks, or months, or years the Israelis can expect many more crises around the world, ready-made tragedies with instant analyses to feed an insatiable appetite for the new and the melodramatic. What is truly important to them, however, may become much more monotonous and much more banal.

JORDAN PRESS EDITORIALS

Friday marked the beginning of the 19th month of the intifada. The Al Ra'i daily noted that the revolt has succeeded in bringing the Palestinian question to the forefront of most international forums. The struggle of the Palestinians against Israeli occupation is legitimate and formidable, the paper said. The paper referred to the statement made by Israeli Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin, that the intifada was a common revolt that would be put down in no time. Time, the paper noted, has proven Rabin wrong. It added that there can be no solution to the Palestine problem until Israel withdraws from the occupied territories and recognises the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people.

An Al Ra'i columnist Friday questioned the stand of the United States vis-a-vis the question of Palestine. Tareq Masarweh, asked why the United States objected so strongly against the treatment of the Chinese student protesters, while it has continuously failed to do same vis-a-vis the treatment of Palestinian children at the hands of Israelis. The writer points out that the United States is considering imposing sanctions against the Chinese government for its treatment of the Chinese students, who are demanding reforms and more freedom. This is in sharp contrast to the continuous moral, economic and political support that Israel receives, despite its continued occupation of a land which is not theirs, and the denial of the basic rights of the Palestinians.

Al Dustour daily commented Friday on the visit of Prime Minister Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker to the southern city of Ma'an Thursday. During his visit the prime minister inspected services, development plans and discussed the needs of local citizens. The paper noted that the visit enhances cooperation and understanding between the government and the people.

Detente is honey for the bear

By Ghadeer Taher
and P.V. Vivekanand

AMMAN — The Arab-Israeli conflict does not figure very high in the Soviet agenda of priorities in the international scene, and Moscow's moves in the Middle East are well-calculated to avoid causing any harm to the new-found superpower detente, according to an American expert on Soviet affairs.

At the same time, there is no prospect in the "foreseeable future" of the superpowers entering a deal "over the Arab-Israeli conflict and "imposing a solution" in the Middle East, argues Dr. Alvin Rubinstein, professor of political science at University of Pennsylvania who describes himself as a "Soviet camp follower" and a monitor of "Soviet instruments, priorities, successes and failures."

Rubinstein, author of several authoritative books on Soviet policy in the international scene, concedes that he is no expert when it comes to the intricacies of the Arab-Israeli conflict, and his assessment is drawn from decades of monitoring Soviet policy moves and strategic interests. "I have followed the Soviets everywhere, whether in the Far East, Asia, Africa or Latin America," he says.

He underlines that the Soviet Union does not face any "security threats" in the Middle East since it does not have borders with any of the parties directly involved in the Arab-Israeli conflict. That is one of the pillars of his argument that the issue is not of any major importance to Moscow.

At the same time, there is no common strategic interest or congruity of views between Washington and Moscow in the Middle East as a catalyst for a superpower deal in the region, he says. "I do not see any prospect for any deal or imposition of a solution in the Middle East in the foreseeable future, say in the next 10 to 15 years."

Rubinstein was in Amman last week and delivered two lectures — one at the American Centre and the other at the World Affairs Council — both on Soviet moves and policy in the Middle East. The main points he made at the lectures and a separate interview with the Jordan Times were:

Regional conflicts

— The Soviet Union under Mikhail Gorbachev has accepted that military might cannot produce long-term political solutions in any part of the world. But, Rubinstein argues, Gorbachev did not bring in this acceptance as a policy guideline with him when he assumed Soviet leadership and points out that the Kremlin chief signalled his desire to disengage from Afghanistan and Southern Africa (through the Cuban presence in Angola) only after concerted military drives in the two regions failed to achieve their goals.

He cites as examples the sudden flare-up of military actions in Afghanistan in late 1986 and 1987 and in the South African-Angolan-Namibian equation in mid-1987 as well as Soviet involvement in the Mozambican civil war.

— The priorities for the Soviets on the external scene begin with maintaining and further warming up the detente with the United States and include, in that order, better relations with China and the European states. By extension, Moscow is anxious not to undertake any action in the Middle East or any other region which could have an adverse impact on its ties with Washington, according to Rubinstein.

Iran — the special links

But, Iran is an exception simply because of its geographical location, bordering the Soviet Union. Rubinstein emphasised that the nosedive that Soviet-Iranian relations took in the immediate post-Iranian-revolution years was triggered by Tehran rather than Moscow, which very studiously avoided antagonising the theocratic regime in Iran despite the strain in ties. The professor recalls that in the one year that lapsed between the July 20, 1979, adoption of a ceasefire resolution in the Iran-Iraq war by the Security Council and Iran's acceptance of the call in July 1988, the Soviet Union vehemently objected to any form of sanctions against Tehran as a punitive measure. Rubinstein interprets the Soviet position as a reflection of Moscow's anxiety not to undermine its search for rapprochement with Tehran.

— The Soviet Union's present relations with Iran and Iraq could only be described as "correct" and not as "good" or "excellent." Iran being a neighbour and Iraq being a partner in a treaty or friendship and cooperation in addition to being an Arab state, which could not be seen as ditched by the Soviets at its time of need in light of Moscow's links with the rest of the Arab World. Rubinstein refuses to credit Gorbachev for having achieved such a level of bilateral links with the two countries during and after the bloody eight-year war in the Gulf. He says both the superpowers, the Soviet Union in particular, were always "reacting to moves made by actors in the region rather than initiating any action."

In the same vein, he pays tribute to the Emir of Kuwait, Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah, "whose master diplomatic stroke" heralded the series of events that led to the ceasefire in the Gulf war. Rubinstein sees Kuwait's decision to secure Soviet and American protection for its oil and gas vessels against Iranian attacks as the singular move which, in due course of time, opened the Iranian eyes to the eventuality of direct superpower involvement in the conflict and convinced Tehran of the need to accept the ceasefire.

Impact of Afghan situation

— Contrary to the belief of many in the region, there is no possibility of resumption of normal relations between Saudi Arabia and the Soviet Union as long as the present Soviet-backed government of President Najibullah is in power in Afghanistan. Despite the Soviet military withdrawal from Afghanistan earlier this year, any Saudi move to normalise relations with Moscow will be seen as "a betrayal of the Mujahedeen (Afghan rebel) cause," he asserts and also rejects the Soviet contention that reopening of the Soviet embassy in Riyadh and the Saudi diplomatic mission in Moscow is only a matter of formalities. His firm argument is that if the Soviet Union wants normalisation of ties with Saudi Arabia it will have to go along with an Afghan solution which does not have any high-profile involvement by Afghan Communists in the Kabul government.

According to Rubinstein, the Soviet Union is seeking a compromise formula to totally disengage itself from the Afghan scene while retaining some political links with whichever government comes to power in Kabul. Inclusion of Najibullah's People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan (PDPA), an idea ruled out by the rebels, could be a way out for Soviet leadership, which is anxious to show to its people that politically it did not lose all in Afghanistan despite the obvious military defeat.

Another important aspect of the Afghan situation is the inevitability of Kabul, regardless of whoever is in power, having to turn to the Soviet Union for help sooner or later because of Afghanistan's traditional dependence on the Soviets for trade and other economic benefits. According to Rubinstein, no country, whether in the East or the West, will be any more interested in Afghanistan if and when Najibullah falls and the Mujahedeen assume power. The professor agrees that there is little chance of such a Mujahedeen government moving in any hurry to mend fences with the Soviet Union, but asserts that it will only be a matter of some years before Soviet-Afghan ties will return to the days of 1975 — strong trade and other relations and a limited, though not insignificant, Soviet political say in Kabul's policies.

In a way, the emerging scenario from Rubinstein's assessment is Moscow can afford to lift its hands off the Afghan situation, which any time it chooses without having to worry about disrupting its links with Kabul, but is reluctant to let go only because of domestic considerations.

— "Russian imperialism" still lingers around in the corridors of power in Moscow and it accounts for the stepped-up Soviet quest for better relations with the monarchies in the Arabian Gulf. Rubinstein does not agree with the argument that the Soviet Union might find itself as a net oil importer in the 1990s and thus is seeking to build solid bridges with the oil producers in the Gulf from now. "I do not agree with it," he said. "But, I may be wrong. Only time can tell."

Soviet-Israeli ties

— The Soviet Union finds itself in a dilemma when it comes to relations with Israel. "It was a mistake for Moscow to have cut relations with Israel in 1967," says Rubinstein, "since the absence of formal ties deprived the Soviets of the chance to play any effective diplomatic role in the region and its dispute."

But, it does not mean that the Soviets are now anxious to unilaterally restore ties with the Israelis. "It will be seen as giving in to the Israelis and a blow to the Arabs without serving any real purpose," according to Rubinstein. If anything, he adds, any such Soviet move will be seen with suspicion and cast serious doubts over Moscow's intentions. Hence the Soviet condition that Israel agrees to an international peace conference before Moscow resumes relations. However, Rubinstein expects Soviet-Israeli links to improve and grow stronger but no prospects of resumed formal links in the next two or three years; the exception will be if Israel agrees to attend an international conference and thus offer the "excuse" the Soviets are looking for to justify resumption of formal ties with Israel.

— There is no "military threat" coming from Israel to the Soviet Union. Rubinstein plays down the significance of Israel's nuclear arsenal and possibilities that missiles with nuclear warheads which could hit the Soviet Union are sited in the Zionist state. He also rejects the notion that Israel's involvement in the American space-based missile defence programme — Strategic Defence Initiative (SDI) or "Star Wars" as it is popularly known is an irritant in Soviet-Israeli relations. Israel's role in SDI should be seen strictly in the context of a commercial and technological arrangement between two countries and it has no military bearing, says the professor.

The Syrian factor

— The Soviet Union's most valuable relationship in the Arab World is with Syria and Moscow is at pains to nurture and maintain it while trying to convince Damascus out of its goal of strategic parity with Israel. "The Soviet Union, I understand, has informed Syria of its intentions to scale down the supply of advanced weapons to Damascus," he said. Moscow is advising the Syrians to be more receptive to moves towards a political solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict, according to the professor.

— The Arab World cannot expect any dedicated effort from either of the superpowers to settle the Lebanese problem. The U.S., "which burned itself very badly in Lebanon" from repercussions of the policy adopted by the Reagan administration, will shy from any prominent profile in Lebanon while the Soviet Union is happy with leaving it to Syria to pursue whatever course it finds fit to follow in Lebanon. Rubinstein doubts whether any other international power will intervene to any meaningful extent in Lebanon, and says "a solution has to come from within the Arab World" that "it will be a mistake to expect any serious effort from Moscow or Washington."

Moscow fears for China link, avoids condemning massacre

By Robert Evans
Reuters

MOSCOW — The Soviet Union's decision to stand aloof from worldwide condemnation of last Sunday's massacre of civilians by troops in Peking clearly reflects Kremlin fear of jeopardising its new ties with China.

That was the conclusion of informed Soviet journalists and analysts from East and West as Moscow's fledgling parliament issued a bland declaration saying the weekend events were a Chinese internal affair.

"Our leadership wants to avoid at all costs upsetting a relationship it has worked long and hard to re-establish," said one Soviet-China specialist. "And our number one has a personal stake in this after his visit to Peking."

The declaration was issued exactly two weeks after Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev and China's senior leader Deng Xiaoping shook hands in the Great Hall of the People to seal reconciliation between the long-squabbling Communist giants.

For Gorbachev, the visit was a triumph of his "new thinking" foreign policy through which he has broken out of a mould of fixed hostilities and often unnatural alliances cast by dogmatic predecessors.

But for the outside world, and for China itself, it was overshadowed by the surge of students and workers, many invoking the Soviet leader's own reforms, demanding that their own ageing rulers grant a measure of political freedom.

Gorbachev sought to avoid involvement, and Soviet reporters in Peking were told to focus on the visit and his set-piece encounters with Deng and other Chinese leaders and generally ignore the mounting "democracy protest," on the streets.

Since Sunday's bloody events in Peking, the otherwise increasingly outspoken media have again pulled in their horns — "largely because of the internal censor still inside all of us," said one journalist in a Moscow newspaper.

The dramatic photographs from Peking that were splashed across the front pages of newspapers across the world were largely missing from the Moscow press and Soviet television gave only a hint of the drama.

The declaration issued by the congress of people's deputies was clearly drafted under Gorbachev's guidance, and suggested

that other countries — and implicitly some Communist parties — condemning the bloodshed were misguided.

"Any attempts to bring pressure from the outside would be inappropriate. Such attempts only blow up passions and do not promote stabilisation of the situation in any way," said the declaration, passed by an overwhelming majority of deputies.

But it had its critics. One deputy, Moscow political journalist Yuri Karyakin, told reporters that condemnation of killing anywhere in the world "is not interference in other people's affairs. These are our affairs also."

"We should use our moral weight. We would not necessarily endan-

ger our diplomatic relations. How can we talk about Latin American regimes if we are silent when such things are happening?" Karyakin said.

He was apparently referring to Tuesday's edition of the Communist party newspaper Pravda whose foreign news page was dominated by a photograph of a Santiago protest against Chile's military rulers.

Alongside a caption declared that Chilean democratic forces were subject to "repression by the military dictatorship" while at the bottom of the page another report gave the official Chinese version of the killings in Peking.

Most analysts discounted suggestions that Moscow might be seeking to replace the West and especially the United States as China's preferred partner by refusing to join the chorus of condemnation.

"We know perfectly well that economically China's interests for



a long time ahead must lie with the West and the developed countries of Asia," said one Soviet Sinologist. "And frankly, for us relations with the West are still top of the agenda."

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Learning the hard way... Palestinian girls at a Jabalia school

Both in South Africa and occupied Palestine children, whether non-white South Africans or Palestinians, suffer in diverse ways from political turmoil

Schoolgirls with broken dreams

Lessons on reality

Sarah Baxter recently returned from the Israeli-occupied Gaza Strip. She reports on the impoverished prospects of young Palestinian girls whose education and thus emancipation are suffering

PALESTINIAN weddings in the Israeli-occupied Gaza Strip are traditionally joyful, noisy and lavish affairs, arranged long in advance and attended by scattered relatives from the surrounding Arab world. Today, however, as the intifada (uprising) enters its 19th month, young teenage girls are leaving school to become wives and mothers and men are eager to acquire a "cheap" bride.

The deepening poverty, aggravated by curfews and strikes, has led the customary bride-price paid by grooms to plummet, while parents, discouraged by the Israelis' open-and-shut schools policy, are despairing of reasons to educate their daughters.

Pre-intifada, a common bride-price was as much as £5,000. No expense was spared, even in the Strip's overcrowded and impoverished refugee camps. Parents would often begin saving for their son's wedding from birth, while the groom would contribute a large proportion of his earnings.

Although love matches are permitted, most Palestinian girls are happy to follow their parents' hearts. Weddings are frequently the high point of their lives, when for once they are the centre of attention.

The bride, painted with chalky white foundation, bright red lipstick and peacock-blue eyeshadow, would swirl around on her wedding day in up to six different dresses, proudly displaying the groom's gifts of gold jewellery.

At night, she would retire to a gaudy and luxurious bedroom, often fitted with shimmering mirrors, a dressing table, red lights and chandeliers.

But by now the uprising has exhausted family savings; unemployment is rife and few grooms can afford to pay more than £1,000. Receptions are quiet family affairs, the sparse bedrooms stay unfurnished and brides must content themselves with just one white wedding dress.

And educated girls used to command a higher price, not least because she was expected to raise intelligent sons, but while men rarely marry before their twenties, brides are getting younger and the clock is going back on emancipation.

and a beautiful bedroom. He gave all my sisters gold bracelets." She acknowledges that her own wedding will be nothing like it.

Intrisaam, from neighbouring Beach Camp, is 16 and hoped to become a journalist, but she is now marrying her cousin at the end of the school year. The Israeli military authorities have closed Gaza's only university and her parents lack the money to educate her abroad.

"The wedding will be very quiet," she says gravely. "It wouldn't be appropriate to be

very happy. Maybe next door to us there is the family of a martyr."

For parents, the importance of educating girls had only just begun to take root, making it all the more vulnerable to the intifada's pressures. In the West Bank, all schools have been shut for over a year, while in the Gaza Strip, the ceaseless imposition of curfews and targeted school closures have meant that pupils sometimes receive only five days' instruction a month.

The authorities have accused schools of breeding stone-throwing street-fighters and "endangering the security of the Israeli Defence Forces". Palestinians counter that it is a form of collective punishment, designed to blight the one precious resource their children can benefit from.

Even the most determined students are at a loss. Samer, a

bright and articulate 18-year-old, recounts the solemn childhood pact she made with five girlfriends. She pledged to become a doctor, "to save people, to see them smile and to help the fedayeen (fighters)". Others dreamed of the law, science, teaching and journalism.

Only one has fulfilled her ambition: she wanted to be a mother. As for Samer, her father shakes his head: "She still dreams of being a doctor. She's very good at school, but she has little chance. She knows this."

The school closures have taken their toll on boys and girls alike. Gazans have learned to cope with tight curfews, which frequently last up to 10 days or more. The Strip falls silent, families remain stifled behind closed doors, unable to cross the street without risking getting shot. Suddenly, army loud-hailers announce that

the curfew is lifted and shoppers rush into the alleyways to stock up on supplies.

The schools reopen, only to find that pupils have entirely forgotten the contents of their last lesson. And at the best of times they remain traumatised by the beatings, arrests and shootings they have seen.

Maryam, a teacher at a Jabalia girls' school, says: "Almost every girl has experienced some form of harassment or beating."

Many of her pupils have fathers or brothers in prison. "Sometimes you tell them to write something or study, but they can't concentrate."

She is not surprised when 14-year-olds vanish from her classroom. "We don't learn every day and the families feel that there's no education, so the girls marry," she says matter-of-factly — *The Guardian*.



Reporting from the blackboard jungle... Thandeka Gqubule in school

Laughing about their future

Chaos is developing in South Africa's black schools again with detentions of children and clashes between pupils and police and troops called in to maintain classroom "discipline." Class boycotts have flared up in the Cape, Bloemfontein and Johannesburg's huge Soweto township as well as other smaller towns and townships. In Cape Town, lawyers are preparing to seek a court interdict protecting schoolchildren after police last week twice used tear-gas to disperse pupils demanding improved facilities and the right to elect student representative councils. Councillors in the mother city's largest township, Khayelitsha, are accused of beating up pupils.

In Bloemfontein the detention of a popular teacher at one school has triggered a class boycott by more than 1,000 pupils. At another school in the judicial capital a boycott was called off when the principal and a member of staff resigned, after pointing guns at children. In Soweto, frustrated children tore up examination papers two weeks ago. Meetings called by teachers in the township to discuss the problems have been broken up by police.

A young South African journalist, Thandeka Gqubule, put on her old gymslip and went back to school for two days in Soweto in an attempt to discover what was causing the crisis in black education. This is her report.

THE REDBRICK school was indistinguishable from many others in Soweto: monotonous and drab. A large group of pupils was gathered on an abandoned tennis court, laughing, joking and clapping their hands in rhythm. They were trying out "isikhando", a new dance which has emerged from South Africa's prisons, invented by schoolchildren being held in detention without trial.

It was mid-morning and exam day in Soweto. For two weeks local children had been sitting the

mid-year exams set by the Department of Education and Training (DET), the government department responsible for the administration of black education in South Africa.

Nobody knew why the day's exams had not started. So they were coping with the cold of a southern hemisphere winter by dancing the isikhando — the jerky movements of which made it look as if their heads would drop off and their arms would leave their bodies.

I thought I was adequately

dressed for school, in standard gym tunic, a simple black jersey and trendy boots. But I was not "with it."

"Leli jersey lakho yi PC?" asked one of the girls. (And that jersey, is it PC?)

"But what is PC?" I asked. The amazement on her face was indescribable. "Hawu, Pierre Cardin," she said. She even had a Cardin label attached to her gymslip. Status is status, particularly in Soweto — as if echoes of Paris and Rome will lighten the bleakness of a township. Style is everything.

Peroxide and glycerin

To be "in" among Soweto schoolgirls the tips of your hair have to be peroxidised — to give it a bronze look; eyebrows shaped with a razor blade; lips shimmering with gloss and legs glistening with glycerin. Shoes should have the ubiquitous Cardin label, or Gino Paoli, or anything Italian, but above all they must be kept shiny. Which is a skill in the dust of a township schoolyard.

A woman teacher with a small voice called out, telling the pupils to stop the dancing. They ignored her at first, but then moved towards the classrooms. Another teacher called out: "What are you lot going in to write?" The youngsters yelled back: "How should we know?" The teacher laughed.

Nobody has a copy of the exam timetable, but it would not have helped if they did, because there is no way of predicting when the exam papers will arrive, or if they will arrive at all.

I asked one pupil what she thought she would be writing if the papers did arrive. "I don't even know whether it'll be in vernacular or English," she said. "I don't know when we're going to write. I heard the teacher say something about 2pm. But they must be mad to think we'll still be here at that time. It's a holiday tomorrow, and I want to clear out of here fast."

I was taken to the Standard 7 classroom by a teacher (Neither the school nor the staff can be named — speaking to the press is an offence punishable by dismissal in South Africa's black schools). An exam was finally in progress. The room had no electricity, and was dark. The light-fitting hung dangerously loose.

As we entered, a pair of identical twins was leaving. They were going home, they told the exasperated teacher, "Because they

couldn't read what was written on the exam paper." The paper had been so poorly reproduced that it was barely legible.

I saw plenty of such papers, where the typing or printing was so bad that whole lines, or even whole paragraphs, were unreadable. And even those papers which pupils could read were riddled with errors and inconsistencies.

Another teacher arrived to try and clarify mistakes in the Standard 7 Sotho [a vernacular language] exam. After explaining questions four and five, she told the children: "I cannot read question six, so speed up your gear, kids; move to top gear and skip number six."

"Well, let's seem number seven. If you haven't studied any of the books or poems in this question, skip it 'cause you cannot answer it."

The pupils started leaving after an hour. A small group of pupils were sharing — and discussing — a single exam paper; there were not enough to go around. More students left the classroom. The teacher looked at her watch and said, "You have very few minutes left now. Times is up. You now have only injury time." They all laughed.

By the end of the day, the register had still not been taken. It had not been a good day. The teacher seemed distraught. The Xhosa Standard 10 paper had been written, but page four had not arrived. The Tsonga [another vernacular language, with Xhosa] paper was even worse: only page four had arrived.

Business economics, which was to have been written in the morning, was rescheduled for the afternoon. But it was also payday and the teachers were eager to cash their cheques for the next day's public holiday. So when the paper only arrived after 1 p.m., they simply postponed it for two days. Nobody seemed bothered that it was a regional exam; other Soweto schools might write it on schedule and the pupils would be able to get the paper from friends before writing it themselves.

Frustration is deeply felt among the teachers. Heavy workloads make preparation almost impossible for them. "If you have to teach four different classes — each of up to 50 students — in four different subjects, and you have a minimum of 42 classes a week, when do you prepare?" said one. "The DET doesn't even know the children they're designing the system for... the DET doesn't visit here as often as the

police do."

While I was at the school a white car arrived, three white security policemen got out and disappeared into the principal's office. It is a routine occurrence, according to pupils. It is widely believed in the schools that the education authorities have, in fact, ceded control to the security forces of South Africa's shadowy Joint Management Security

System.

The powerlessness of the teachers make them a target for the anger of children. "Teachers are the only symbol of the education system that is immediately available," said one. "We give out the instructions. We are in the firing line."

As one group of pupils waited for their exam papers to arrive they teased one of their more

popular teachers. "Comrade Meneer, we will destroy all these windows if our exam paper does not come now!" Comrade Meneer shrugged and asked what they supposed he could do about it.

Other groups listening to the exchange began to laugh. It was a resigned laugh. As if they knew they were laughing about their future.

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Kuwait, UAE break ranks

Experts anticipate inter-OPEC cheating

TOKYO (R) — An OPEC agreement signed in Vienna Wednesday is merely a weak, temporary compromise which will make the oil group's next attempt to share out production quotas even harder, Far East oil experts said.

The accord failed to satisfy demands of Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) for a larger share of output this time and when the group meets later this year it will also face demands from Iraq and Iran for bigger quotas, they said.

Meanwhile, Kuwait and the UAE will continue to pump far more than their allocated quotas.

Crude oil prices plunged more than 60 cents a barrel after the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) agreed to raise its widely-flouted production ceiling by one million barrels per day (b/d) to 19.5 million bpd from July, with additional quotas allocated pro rata.

Kuwait signed the agreement with reservations.

Oil Minister Ali Al Khalifa Al Sabah said in remarks published Thursday that Kuwait was not bound by its 1.09 million b/d production quota.

"We feel we are not required to accept this share," he was quoted as saying by Al Qabas newspaper.

Oil prices in Tokyo shed another 15 cents on the report.

Most oil industry sources in Tokyo said they didn't consider that OPEC had actually achieved any agreement.

"If Kuwait feels free to cheat, the UAE will cheat and it won't be long before everybody gets fed up and joins in," said one major oil company official based in Tokyo.

"OPEC didn't reach a firm commitment on the production quota and individual country's allocations," said Masaru Kai, a deputy general manager at Nippon Oil Company.

"Kuwait and the UAE cannot keep their production within these quotas and they will con-

at the moment so there will be no actual change in overall output."

Lower prices

Oil traders said the market's dissatisfaction with the outcome of the OPEC talks could cause prices to drop further in the short-term, but the level of demand in the next three months will probably sustain prices near the lower levels.

"Demand will be slightly less than 21 million b/d in the third quarter so the market price will not improve quickly, but it will not decline sharply," Tashiro said.

Nippon Oil's Kai said he also saw a slight oversupply in the third quarter but expected the price of a barrel of crude from the Middle East would average between \$15 and \$16.

The deal OPEC signed Wednesday retained a reference price of \$18 barrel for the next six months.

Cargoes of Dubai, the benchmark Middle East crude, are currently trading at around \$15.00.

Kai said prices could rise in the fourth quarter of the year because of higher demand if output remained around current levels, but there will be strong pressure on OPEC for another rise in production later in the year.

OPEC ministers will meet again in Paris in September to review the output ceiling.

By September the unresolved problem of Kuwait and the UAE's quota allocation will be further complicated by increased export capacities of Iraq and Iran.

"Iraq and Iran will insist on higher quotas as they will expand their production and export capacities later in the year," said Kai.

Motorists in Europe expect cheap petrol

Oil traders in Europe said that drivers, hit by a series of sharp rises in petrol prices last spring, may now be able to look forward to cheaper summer motoring.

As many prepare for long-distance road holidays, prices are falling at petrol pumps in West Germany, France, Switzerland and the Netherlands and energy analysts think further rises are unlikely for the time being.

The main exception has been Britain, where one source with a major British oil company cited the pound sterling's decline against the dollar as one reason for not cutting pump prices.

Trade sources say prices on the influential Amsterdam-Rotterdam-Antwerp oil spot market — where oil companies and traders go to top up supplies — have tumbled to around \$18 a barrel from a four-year peak in late April of around \$22.

Oil companies passed the early spring increases on to their cus-

tomers by raising pump prices.

Traders say spot petrol markets jumped partly because of higher crude oil prices after signs of growing unity among OPEC oil producers, the Exxon Valdez tanker oil spill off Alaska, and a string of supply disruptions in Britain's North Sea.

U.S. air pollution restrictions and maintenance closures at European refineries also pushed up prices at filling stations.

Retail prices are now falling against after highs in early May.

"Petrol prices are stable with a sinking tendency, despite the strong dollar," said Eric Zanetti, spokesman for Shell (Switzerland) Zurich.

He said Rotterdam spot market prices were stable but that given the market's volatility, it was not possible to look further than a week or two ahead.

Some industry sources were reluctant to forecast the summer prices trend. "It seems stable at moment, but the rising dollar cannot help things any," a spokesman for one oil company said.

Dutch drivers may have to pay more if an environmental protection programme unveiled May 25 comes into force.

In Britain, prices at the pump have not fallen but have stabilised at around 43 pence (68 cents) a litre for leaded super grade, up from 37.5 pence (59 cents) in January.

"If prices go up on the spot market we see an immediate effect at the pumps which might be justified," said a spokesman for the British car drivers' group the Automobile Association.

"We would like to see an equally quick reaction in pump prices when oil (spot market) prices come down," he concluded.



Jordan's Industry and Trade Minister Ziyad Inaab (right) and UAE Economy and Trade Minister Seif Ali Al Jarawan sign the bilateral agreement (Petra photo)

Jordan, UAE boost ties

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) have reached initial agreement to promote trade and economic cooperation between them.

Under the terms of the agreement, signed at the Ministry of Industry and Trade in Amman Thursday, Jordan and the UAE will encourage the exchange of national agricultural and industrial products between them.

The agreement covers providing facilities for the transportation of national goods across their respective territories and also calls for cooperation between concerned authorities in either country to exchange expertise. In addition, the accord stipulates exerting efforts in conducting economic research and providing facilities for the free flow of capital by businessmen and investors in either country.

The main areas where cooperation will be conducted according

to the agreement: Tourism, trade, economy, industry and import-export operations.

Industry and Trade Minister Ziyad Inaab and UAE Economy and Trade Minister Seif Ali Al Jarawan signed the agreement which also includes guidelines for the two countries to participate in

AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES

AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES					
Thursday, June 8, 1989					
Central Bank official rates					
	Buy	Sell			
U.S. dollar	565.3	571.3	French franc	84.3	85.3
Pound Sterling	889.5	898.4	Japanese yen (for 100)	395.3	399.8
Deutschemark	286.6	289.5	Dutch guilder	254.5	257.0
Swiss franc	330.5	333.8	Swedish crown	85.0	85.9
			Italian lira (for 100)	39.4	39.8
			Belgian franc (for 10)	137.3	138.7

Amman Financial Market
weekly trading

Following is a summary of trading during last week and the previous week:

	June 3-7	May 27-31
Daily average	JD 1,208,333	JD 1,436,001
Total volume	JD 6,041,164	JD 7,343,780
Total shares	3,868,432	4,298,785
No. of contracts	4,275	4,823
Sectoral trading:		
Industrial	JD 4,290,947 (71.0%)	JD 5,169,405 (65.6%)
Financial	JD 638,748 (10.6%)	JD 1,208,840 (22.2%)
Service	(15.4%)	(5.4%)
Insurance	(3.0%)	(6.8%)
Share price index	127.2	125.8
No. of companies	65	66
Price movement (rise)	31	18
(decline)	20	35
(stable)	14	13

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Friday.

One Sterling	1.5610/20	U.S. dollar
One U.S. dollar	1.1952/62	Canadian dollar
	1.9890/900	Deutschemarks
	2.2390/400	Dutch guilders
	1.7235/45	Swiss francs
	41.63/68	Belgian francs
	6.7375/425	French francs
	1448/1449	Italian lire
	144.70/80	Japanese yen
	6.7000/50	Swedish crowns
	7.1900/50	Norwegian crowns
	7.7325/75	Danish crowns
One ounce of gold	370.50/371.00	U.S. dollars

WORLD STOCK MARKETS

SYDNEY — Volatile trading in News Corporation dominated the market. At 0515 GMT, the All Ordinaries index was unchanged from Thursday's close of 1,544.8.

JAPAN — The market could not hold on to early gains and share prices languished in very light trading to close mixed. The Nikkei index erased 78.31 points to close at 33,639.98.

HONG KONG — Stocks rose after Chinese Premier Li Peng appeared on television on Peking, suggesting hardliners were in control. "The market thinks hardline control is better than no control at all," said a broker. The Hang Seng index rose 43.72 to 2,268.38.

SINGAPORE — Shares staged a strong rebound. The Straits Times industrial index rose 34.10 points to close at 1,241.21 after falls earlier in the week.

BOMBAY — Share prices moved narrowly and ended mixed in a dreary market which opened a half-hour late after monsoon rains disrupted morning traffic. Tata Steel rose 10 rupees to 1,360.

FRANKFURT — Shares ended their third week of sharp gains mixed. Many investors were unwilling to take new positions before the weekend and Friday's release of U.S. May producer prices. A power cut prevented computation of the DAX index.

PARIS — Prices were firmer by mid-session in relatively active trading boosted by selective buying of special-interest stocks.

ZURICH — Shares closed firmer across the board on high volume, with the stabilisation in interest rates continuing to attract buyers. The all-share Swiss index rose 11.2 to 1,065.5.

LONDON — Shares turned mostly easier in volatile afternoon trading after a much larger than expected gain in May U.S. producer prices sent the dollar climbing and quashed hopes of an early cut in U.S. interest rates. At 1449 GMT the FTSE 100 index was up 0.2 at 2,143.6.

NEW YORK — Stocks showed little change in an up-and-down morning session. The Dow was around its Thursday close of 2,517.

Soviet foreign indebtedness totals \$53b

MOSCOW (R) — The Soviet Union's foreign debt is 34 billion roubles (\$53 billion), Soviet Prime Minister Nikolai Ryzhkov said Friday, revealing the figure for the first time.

Ryzhkov disclosed Moscow's hard currency indebtedness in remarks to the Congress of People's Deputies, the new Soviet parliament.

He said the Soviet Union would have to pay 12 billion roubles (\$18.7 billion) this year for servicing credits — and would have to use foreign loans to pay it.

Ryzhkov did not say if the figure included repayments of loans falling due as well as interest payments.

"We need 12 billion roubles for servicing credits," Ryzhkov said. "Can we go deeper into debt? I think, comrades, that we should be very reserved about this," he said, addressing calls from some deputies for the Soviet Union to borrow still more money from the West in order to import consumer goods.

Ryzhkov said the Soviet Union would earn about 16 billion roubles (\$25 billion) in hard currency this year, but would then spend 13.6 billion roubles (\$21.2 billion) of that on imports.

That leaves only 2.4 billion roubles (\$3.7 billion) to cover the 12 billion rouble payment on

foreign loans, "meaning we are again taking credits," he said.

Last week Ryzhkov gave a speech to the parliament in which he painted a dire picture of the state of the country's finances and its foreign debt position — without actually giving the figure for the debt.

Deputies including leading economist Nikolai Shmelev later challenged him to name the amount.

The Soviet prime minister also spelled out how the money on imports would be spent this year.

Five billion roubles (\$7.8 billion) would go for grain and food, he said. "Can we save here?"

Responding to shouts from the hall of "yes, we can," Ryzhkov said: "Well comrades, that is for us to decide, but I think with the present state of our agriculture, cutting here will only worsen the situation for the population."

He said 2.5 billion roubles (\$3.9 billion) would be spent on importing equipment and machinery and 1.5 billion roubles (\$2.3 billion) to buy raw materials for light industry.

Earlier leading economist Gavril Popov told the congress that the state sector should be reduced to 50 per cent of the Soviet economy in order to pull it out of crisis.

"All the emergency measures provided for by the government are treating the symptoms of the illness, not the disease itself," Popov said.

Radical economist Nikolai Shmelev told the Soviet parliament Thursday that the country should reduce aid to its Latin

American allies and pay farmers in foreign currency to help avert an economic collapse.

Shmelev, speaking in proceedings broadcast live on national television, warned that "in two or three years we could face an economic crash" if the Soviet government doesn't reduce inflation, consumer shortages and the "monstrous budget deficit."

Shmelev said the government must eliminate the remnants of President Mikhail Gorbachev's anti-alcohol campaign and import more than \$15 billion worth of consumer goods to counteract shortages.

Gorbachev's cutbacks in alcohol sales, introduced two months after he came to power in March 1985, led to large losses of government revenue and widespread home-distilling of alcoholic beverages.

Shmelev, a prominent reform-minded economist, said the country could motivate Soviet farmers to work harder and produce more by paying them in foreign currency, which they could use to buy scarce goods.

With extra crops, the Soviet Union could reduce its practice of buying grain abroad to make up for shortfalls in domestic harvests, thus freeing up hard currency to buy the needed consumer goods, he said.

Shmelev also called for a cut in foreign aid to Latin America, quoting U.S. estimates that the Soviet Union spends between \$6 billion and \$8 billion in the re-



Nikolai Ryzhkov

gion, especially in aid to Cuba and Nicaragua, he said, "no one understands what a significant portion of that money is spent on."

Ryzhkov outlined a more moderate economic programme Wednesday saying the Kremlin would continue trimming defence spending through 1995, reducing the Soviet Union's defence burden by up to one half.

The defence burden is the portion of national income that goes to military spending. Top Soviet economists have estimated the current defence burden at nine per cent of the gross national product, which is the total value of goods and services produced in the country.

Ryzhkov said the defence cuts were being made in hopes of spurring an underproductive economy and providing help for the nearly 40 million Soviet citizens living in poverty, with incomes of 75 roubles (\$114) a month or less.

The premier said future social reforms also would include abolition of special care for privileged officials, an inequity that ordinary citizens have long complained about.

He also revealed that the nine-year Soviet military involvement in Afghanistan, which ended in February, had cost the government treasury 5 billion roubles (\$8 billion) a year.

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BE CRAZY

Performances: 3:30, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30 p.m.

Judge in America Cup probes fairness

NEW YORK (R) — A panel of appeals judges heard arguments Thursday from lawyers representing the San Diego yacht club and New Zealand's Mercury Bay boating club in an effort to determine the future of the America's Cup.

Five judges from the appellate division of the New York Supreme Court must decide what constitutes a "fair" contest for yachting's oldest and most prestigious trophy and whether an even contest is mandated by the deed of gift — the rules governing the regatta.

A contest between a catamaran and a monohull is "like racing a Ferrari against a dump truck," George Tompkins argued on behalf of Mercury Bay.

Tompkins said that "fairness is the heart of the deed."

But Justice E. Leo Milonas questioned Mercury Bay's sincerity in its desire for fairness.

Milonas asked Tompkins if it were fair to challenge San Diego with a 90-foot boat, knowing the defenders' intentions were to stage the next regatta in the traditional 12-metre yachts.

Tompkins said there was nothing in the deed that prohibits that size. "It's a challenge cup not an invitation," he said.

Lawyers for San Diego, however, argued that judge Carmen Ciparick had no basis for ruling that the competitors must be "somewhat evenly matched."

"This rule does not appear in the America's Cup deed of gift," former federal judge Harold Tyler said. "Nor can it be inferred from any term or combination of terms found in the deed and it is contradicted by the history of America's Cup competition."

He said that the rules only state that competing vessels must be propelled by sails only and if signed masted must measure between 44 and 90 feet on the load waterline.

Justice Thomas Sullivan asked if the spirit of the deed did not mean that competing boats must be of equal dimensions and equal caliber.

Tyler said no. "What this is all about is an international competition that leads to innovation," he said.

SPORTS IN BRIEF

Maradona inspires Napoli to first leg win

NAPLES, Italy (R) — Diego Maradona set up a second half goal to give UEFA cup winners Napoli a 1-0 win against holders Sampdoria in the first leg of the Italian Cup final Wednesday. The Argentine, forever inspirational, directed a cross from a short corner towards Libero Alessandro Renica, who found space in a crowded area to head the ball past goalkeeper Gianluca Pagliuca. The 55th minute goal made Napoli favorites for the return leg on June 28, which will be played in Milan because of building work at Sampdoria's stadium in Genoa for next year's World Cup finals. Sampdoria, losing European Cup winners' cup finalists, twice tested Napoli goalkeeper Giuliano Giuliani in the first half with fine headers from Brazilian midfielder Toninho Cerezo.

British trainers fancied in Prix De Diane

PARIS (R) — Following Old Vic's spectacular success in last week's Prix Du Jockey club, Enconsee and Pass the Peace will be strongly fancied to give British trainers a classic double in Sunday's Prix De Diane over one mile two-and-a-half furlongs at Chantilly. No outstanding French filly has emerged this season and the main hopes of a home victory in the equivalent of the English Oaks are Bellarida, Louveterre and Rose de crystal. Enconsee, ridden by Ray Cochrane, has sound form. Totally unsuited to the sedate early pace of the English 1,000 Guineas in which she finished fourth, the Sheikh Mohammed-owned filly showed her class with a comfortable win in the Irish 1,000 Guineas at the Curragh on May 27. An extra two-and-a-half furlongs will be firmly in her favour Sunday and she has every chance of competing the double.

Mercedes to start Le Mans from front

LE MANS (R) — Mercedes will start the 57th Le Mans 24-hour motor race from the front row of the grid after beating the on-form British Jaguars in two nights of qualifying. The team, which withdrew its cars from last year's race after a high-speed tyre blowout in practice, returned to the French road circuit in triumph with two of its three cars at the head of the 60 entries. Jean-Louis Schlesser of France will be in pole position for Saturday's start but fastest man at Le Mans was northern Irishman Kenny Acheson, who took his Mercedes through the speedtrap on the daunting Mulsanne straight at 404 KPH. "I didn't notice the speed. The car was rock-steady, and I'm just sorry the rest of the lap was not quick enough to give me pole," Acheson said. His time was just .63 of a second slower than Schlesser's record three minutes 15.04 seconds for the 13.6-km circuit.

Swazi footballer abducted at gunpoint

MBABANE (R) — A Swazi soccer player has been abducted at gunpoint from a training session with his new club in what appears to be a dispute over transfer fees, club officials said Friday. The incident happened Wednesday when Samuel Chippa Dlamini turned out to train with first division club Mbabane Highlanders. Local newspaper reports, confirmed by club officials, said two men armed with a pistol rushed on the field and hustled Dlamini into a waiting car. The player, transferred from second division club Two Sticks Comrades, has not been seen since. There has been no comment from police.

FORECAST FOR SATURDAY, JUNE 10, 1989

YOUR HOROSCOPE

by Thomas Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Institute

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Many will arise today with good intentions to complete a list of practical activities. Productive energy may get trapped as the day wears ahead. Expect formal routines to change in favor of merriment.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Contemplate a ripe financial move over the weekend. Invite a few guests over who are intellectually stimulating. You will have fun.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) If you don't feel true love in a relationship, be honest with yourself and the other person. Deliberation will give you the answers.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) You will be happy if you straighten out your personal affairs. Before you go out, catch up on delinquent paper work, record keeping, etc.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to Jul. 21) You may be in a forgetful mood. Double-check and don't leave anything behind. Handle siblings in a diplomatic manner.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) Your gracious mood can override any situation today, especially when you must deal with someone who is frivolous and petty.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) Your friendly mood is mischievous which makes you lighthearted and fun to be with. Your devotion is appreciated by family members.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) You may prefer a mobile weekend with an emphasis on humorous entertainment. Organize yourself early in the day.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) You are ready for a change of pace. It is worth the effort to please your loved ones. Think big when considering outdoor activities.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Domestic harmony may be up and down today. Everything calms down when you let activities fall into place.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) Focus on money, investments and financial security. It may be hard for you to make up your mind today.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) Ignore neighborhood gossip making the rounds. Reach an understanding with your mate involving shared responsibilities.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) Planetary aspects reveal an indulgent attitude along with scattered energy. A drive to new vistas can help to relieve restless energy.

French Open semi-finals

Chang chases historic final

PARIS (R) — Michael Chang chases a place in tennis history Friday when he attempts to become the youngest ever men's finalist at the French Open.

The 17-year-old American meets Andrei Chesnokov of the Soviet Union in a semifinal showdown promising as much fascination as the other tie between Boris Becker and Stefan Edberg offers excitement.

The meeting between Becker and Edberg brings together two similar yet unlikely contenders for the season's slow clay court classic.

West German Becker and Sweden's Edberg, two of the last three winners on their favoured fast grass surface at Wimbledon, will have to stay true to their attacking natures as both aim for their first Roland Garros final.

Whatever the outcome there will be a new name on the trophy this year because three times winners Ivan Lendl, the top seed, and Mats Wilander, the defending champion, are already out.

Not so in the women's singles where Steffi Graf advanced towards her third title in a row when she struggled through her semifinal to beat 15-year-old sensation Monica Seles of Yugoslavia in three hard-fought sets Thursday.

Arantxa Sanchez, the first Spaniard to get so far, will face her in Saturday's final, praying not to fall a 6-0, 6-0 victim as Natalia Zvereva of the Soviet Union did last year.

Fifteenth seed Chang, who came back from two sets down to beat Lendl in the fourth round of the men's event despite a fifth set attack of cramps, has certainly been blessed so far.

"I won because the Lord

wanted me to," said the youngest ever semifinalist in Paris. If the heavens stay with him, he stands to beat Wilander's record, set here in 1982 when he was 17 years and nine months old, and become the youngest ever winner of a Grand Slam event.

Chang, who has six months less on his birth certificate than Wilander did then, was faithful on his side and an unusually large degree of cunning to help along divine providence when it looks as if it may not work on its own.

But in the unseeded Chesnokov, who dismissed Wilander in the quarter-finals, he faces a player with high motivation. Since Chesnokov decided to defy the Soviet tennis authorities and keep his prize money for himself, he has won tournaments in Nice and Munich.

His \$73,000 cheque for reaching the French Open semi-finals is the largest of his career and the carrot for further success is \$145,000 for the final and \$291,000 for the title itself.

Ranked 27th in the world, Chesnokov is probably the most accomplished clay court player left in the tournament and his chances cannot be lightly dismissed.

But the Becker-Edberg clash is a battle of the titans from which the title favourite will emerge even if their boom-bang, serve-and-volley encounter may become a centre court public brought up on sedate exchanges served up from the baseline.

The Swedish third seed, current Wimbledon champion, has been the most impressive performer in Paris over the past 10 days but second seed Becker has also improved vastly on clay this year.

Either could earn a distinguished place in tennis history. In the last 20 years only Rod Laver and Bjorn Borg have won on both clay and grass at Roland Garros and Wimbledon. It would be difficult to get among better company than that.

Seles: joining the Steffi and Gaby club

PARIS (AP) — Steffi Graf can remember when she was 15, up and coming and scaring the life out of opponents.

She met her double at the French Open Thursday.

Monica Seles, 15 years old, the youngest player in the tournament and competing in her first Grand Slam event, pushed Graf to the limit in the semifinals of the famed clay-court event and gave notice that she is ready to challenge the supremacy of the world's no. 1 player.

"At that age, you have nothing to lose," Graf said after her 6-3, 3-6, 6-3 victory over the Florida-based Yugoslav.

"You are not expected to win, and the crowd is more behind you. It's easier to play that way."

With her bright aquamarine

costume, her hair tied with a white ribbon, her squeals and grunts, Seles was the picture of youthful enthusiasm.

After dropping the opening set, she shook off her inhibitions and beat Graf to her own game, driving the ball to the lines and drawing uncharacteristic errors from the racket of the normally aggressive West German.

"In the first set, I was very scared," said Seles, born in Novi Sad, Yugoslavia but a product of Nick Bollettieri's tennis academy in Bradenton, Florida. "Afterwards I relaxed a little bit."

Only when she got to the eighth game of the final set did Seles' strength and spirit break, as she fired on the energy-sapping red clay and lost the three games.

"I was getting a little bit tired," Seles said. "We were 4-3, deuce, and I had the chance to win that game. But at that point I was totally exhausted."

Exhausted or not, Seles proved — if she ever needed to — that the new era in women's tennis, so often dubbed the Steffi and Gaby club after Graf and Gabriela Sabatini, has a new, younger, and just as dangerous member.

The Yugoslav beat Chris Evert in the championship match of the Virginia Slims of Houston in April and was 6-0 for the season coming into the French Open where she eliminated No. 4 seed Zina Garrison and No. 6 Manuela Maleeva.

On Thursday, she became the first player for eight months to take a set off Graf.

Pistons go

2-0 up over

L.A. Lakers

DETROIT (R) — Joe Dumars scored 33 points to lead the Detroit Pistons to a 108-105 victory over the Los Angeles Lakers and a commanding 3-0 lead in the best-of-seven game National Basketball Association (NBA) championship series Thursday.

Perhaps much more damaging than the loss of game two, however, was the injury to Los Angeles superstar and league most valuable player Earvin (Magic) Johnson.

With the score level 75-75 in the third quarter, Johnson pulled up with a strained left hamstring muscle and was forced to leave the game. The Lakers were already without the services of their other starting guard, Byron Scott, who suffered a similar injury in practice before the first game.

Los Angeles which had led for most of the game — they were up 62-56 at halftime — rallied briefly following Johnson's injury to take a 92-84 lead.

Detroit then took control with a 12-1 spurt early in the fourth quarter to grab the lead for the first time in the game and never relinquished it despite a desperate Laker comeback attempt.

Pressure mounts to scotch record

TORONTO (AP) — The Ontario Track and Field Association still plans to press the National Association to have the sport's international governing body erase Ben Johnson's 100-metre world record.

Rolf Lund, president of the Ontario Association, said Thursday the request will be made during the weekend at the Canadian Association's annual general meeting in Ottawa.

The provincial association announced in April its intention to seek the removal of the record of 9.83 seconds Johnson set at the 1987 world championships in Rome. It also passed a motion to remove from the Ontario record book any standard set by an

athlete who admitted using banned drugs before a performance.

That action drew criticism from officials at the Dublin inquiry into steroid use in sports created after Johnson was stripped of his gold medal at the summer Olympics last year when he tested positive for steroid use.

Following the criticism, the Ontario Association delayed implementation of its ruling. But Lund said it plans to press the National Association on the issue this weekend.

"I don't think the sport should wait," Lund said. Earlier this week, an International Athletic Federation official said the world body has its lawyers investigating whether

Johnson's record can be annulled if it is confirmed he took banned drugs before the race in Rome.

Several witnesses at the Dublin inquiry, including Johnson's coach, Charlie Francis, and personal physician, Dr. Jamie Astaphan, have testified that Johnson was on a steroid programme before the world championships. Johnson's record still stands, though, because he did not test positive after that race.

"If the IAAF decides in September to take away his world record, he would look rather silly to keep his record as the Canadian record," Lund said. "I think we could play a leadership role and support that view (that the record should be erased)."

Officials to decide Asia Games after China crisis

TOKYO (AP) — The Olympic Council of Asia (OCA) will decide on the future of the 11th Asian games if China is unable to host the 1990 event as scheduled because of domestic turmoil, the president of the Japan Olympic Committee said Friday.

"China has not said it will give up hosting the games. But should China give them up, the OCA

will meet to decide on a new host," Katsuji Shibata said. "If the OCA asks Japan to substitute for China, Japan will give it serious thought," he said.

Asked which Japanese city should host the games, Shibata replied, "I have no idea at present."

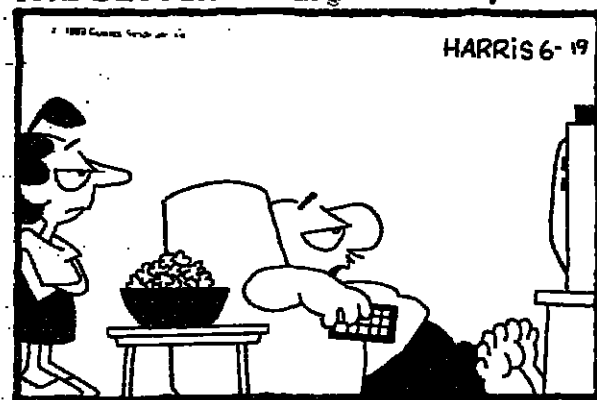
The city of Hiroshima is to host the 12th Asian Games in 1994.

Meanwhile, the all Japan Amateur Archery Federation said it will not send a team to the sixth Asia Cup archery championships in China in late June because of the current turmoil.

The Japan Amateur Boxing Federation also is studying whether to send a team to the Asian Amateur Boxing championships to be held in Beijing.

THE BETTER HALF

By Harris



"Are the remote control buttons getting harder to push... or am I just out of shape?"

JUMBLE

Unscramble these four jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

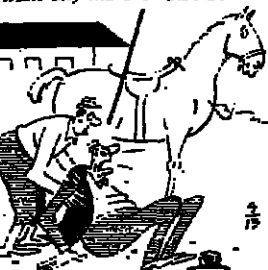
HESAF
LUTOC
EMBLUF
YARTE

Print answer here: _____

Yesterday's Jumbles: AGLOW WOVEN NOODLE MOTIVE

Answer: When they gave that huge banquet in China, how much did the food weigh? — "WONTON" (one ton)

I'm just fine, but I don't want any more of that beast



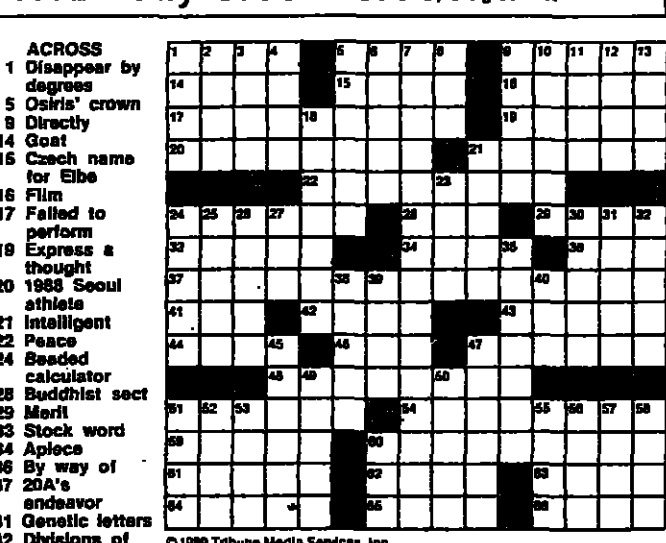
HORSEBACK RIDING IS A SPORT THAT SOMETIMES MAKES THE NOVICE FEEL THIS.

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

(Answers tomorrow)

THE Daily Crossword

by Craig Schultz

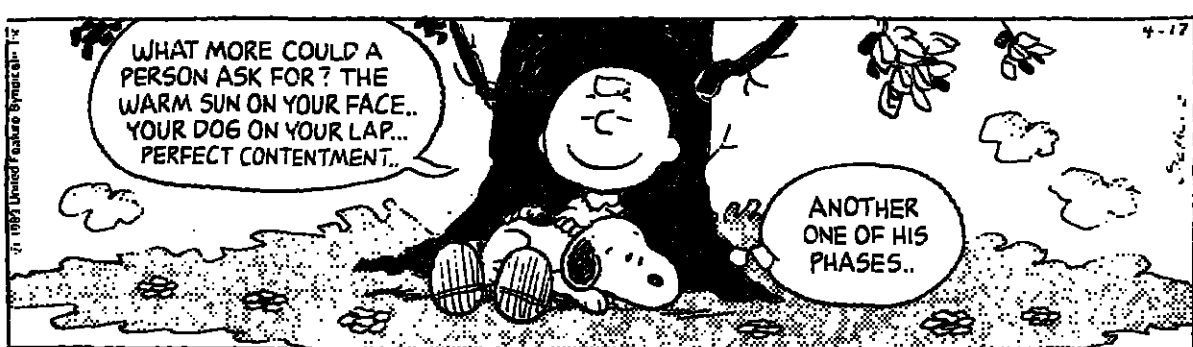


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Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:

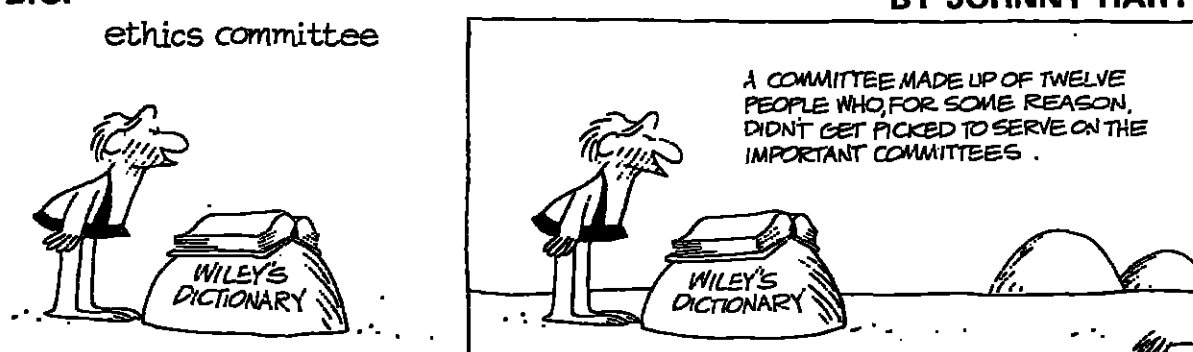
1. Disappear by degrees
2. Osiris' crown
3. Directly
4. Goat
5. Cash name for Elbe
6. Film
7. Failed to perform
8. Express a thought
9. 1988 Seoul athlete
10. Intelligent
11. Peace
12. Seeded
13. Buddhist sect
14. Merit
15. Stock word
16. Apple
17. By way of
18. 20A's
19. Endeavor
20. Genetic letters
21. Divisions of time
22. Duplicity
23. Urges
24. And so forth
25. Sex
26. Place to eat
27. Forward flow
28. Approaching
29. Eng. town
30. Of plants
31. Belgian city
32. Gelatinous substance
33. N. lake
34. Sire or Woody
35. Mo.
36. Over again
37. DOWN
38. Dog's name
39. 20B's sib
40. Reel
41. Test
42. Friends
43. Mongolian of war
44. Christmas
45. Nourished
46. Young salmon
47. Olive's boyfriend
48. Tail
49. Playing card
50. Actor Will
51. Rapid increase
52. Something easy
53. Admirable
54. Increased
55. U.S. pioneer
56. Relating to bees
57. Discharge
58. Eachew
59. Moon feature
60. Consumer advocate
61. Dominating government
62. Just arrived
63. Feeding one's —
64. Firearm
65. Dirty mark
66. Stroller
67. German city
68. Ready
69. podrida
70. An Armstrong
71. Country dance
72. Inglese
73. License
74. What's in
75. Incandescence
76. — relief

Peanuts

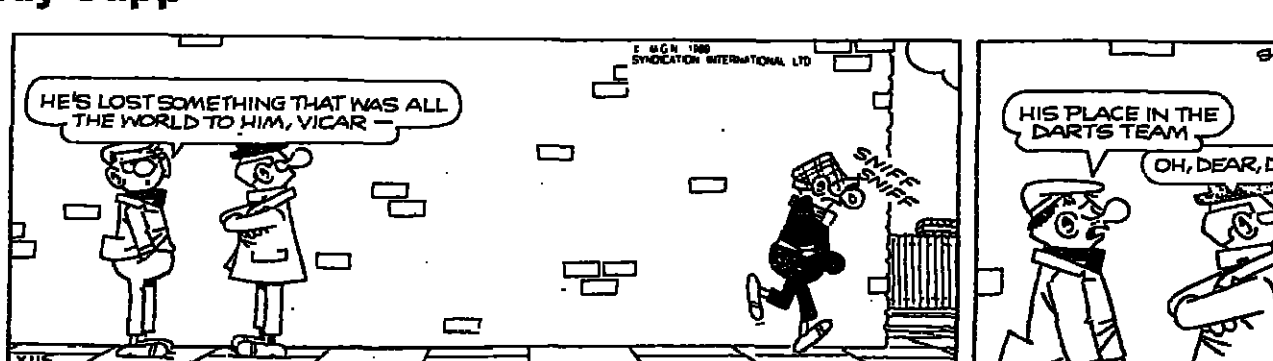


B.C. ethics committee

BY JOHNNY HART



Andy Capp



No danger of coups, Gorbachev tells deputies

MOSCOW (Agencies) — Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev Friday assured the Soviet parliament he was not threatened by a coup and demanded an end to rumours that he was in danger of losing power.

In a speech to the Congress of People's Deputies, Gorbachev said the Communist Party Central Committee backed him as did the party's ruling politburo.

"I must assure you that the Central Committee shares the position of the politburo that there is no danger of coups. Let us put an end to rumours," he said. "According to rumours I have been killed not less than seven times and my entire family not less than three times," he said. "It is especially impermissible when deputies have a hand in such empty rumours."

Gorbachev did not elaborate and it was unclear whether some fresh rumour about the president and Communist Party chief had been making the rounds of the congress.

But Russian author Valentin Rasputin earlier this week asked Gorbachev to address suggestions that he was threatened by a coup and said it was obvious a struggle for power was going on among top leaders.

Rasputin referred to complaints by historian Roy Medvedev that every time Gorbachev left Mos-

cow, government and party policy reversed itself.

"You did not answer Medvedev's declaration that every time you left Moscow, especially with (politburo member Alexander) Yakovlev, there appeared a situation close to a coup. Is it so?" Rasputin asked Gorbachev in the debate Wednesday.

Yakovlev, chief of the Communist Party Commission on International Affairs, is one of Gorbachev's closest advisers.

Gorbachev Friday also indignantly denied he was hungry for personal power.

"As a communist, I categorically reject the hints (that) I am trying to concentrate power in my own hands," Gorbachev told the nationally televised session of the congress.

This is alien to me, to my views, my outlook, and my character," Gorbachev said. "I, as general secretary and president, have no other policy than perestroika, democratisation and glasnost."

"In this, I see the point of my life and my work."

In a rousing speech on what

was planned to be the last day of the Soviet congress' inaugural session, Gorbachev said he understood the dissatisfaction that deputies had expressed over the past two weeks.

But he said the congress marked a "new stage of perestroika," his political and economic reform programme, and would move the country further "along the road of glasnost," or greater openness, and democratisation.

The new parliament's raucousness, unprecedented in Soviet politics where lawmakers traditionally have been just cogs in the Kremlin machinery, reached an emotional peak Thursday when about two dozen Baltic deputies stormed out.

"Comrades, comrades. I ask you to be calm because this is not all so simple," an exasperated Gorbachev said as the deputies left the Kremlin's Palace of Congresses.

The walkout reflected the heated opposition by some deputies to the Communist Party establishment that runs the session and nominates committee members and other officials.

In other tough talk Thursday, a radical economist said the country should cut aid to the Kremlin's Latin American allies and pay farmers in foreign currency to

help avert economic collapse. Another deputy said the country was on the brink of ecological disaster.

Soviet Television, which broadcast the session live to millions of people, showed about 25 deputies storming out.

The Baltic legislators made their move after objecting to forming a committee to decide whether laws conform to the Soviet constitution. They said the committee could encroach on their republics' right to self-determination and ability to veto laws passed by the central government.

Author Rasputin in his speech Wednesday also referred to attacks during the congress on politburo member Yegor Ligachev and suggested the conservative Siberian had been singled out to be eliminated from power.

"There is no need to remind you who will be next," Rasputin added ominously.

Ligachev was ridiculed during the congress by one deputy who said he was incompetent and was linked by another deputy with a massive corruption investigation.

He was once Kremlin ideology chief but was demoted in a reshuffle last autumn and given the difficult task of directing policy on Soviet agriculture.

Botha renews repressive state of emergency for fourth year

JOHANNESBURG (Agencies) — President P.W. Botha extended the national state of emergency for a fourth year Friday, saying revolutionaries still exert influence in the nation although widespread violence has stopped.

"I want to emphasise that the reason for the existence of the state of emergency should be blamed on the 'terrorist' organisations and their internal allies and not on the government," Botha said in a statement made public at midnight. "It remains the resolute aim of the government to terminate the activities of the revolutionaries."

The emergency rule has forced a black uprising against white rule off the world's nightly television news and created an impression of calm in the country.

Even before Botha imposed nationwide emergency rule in June, 1986, burning roadblocks, children confronting heavily armed soldiers with stones and mass funerals for demonstrators killed by police were familiar sights.

Three years of sweeping press curbs, mass detentions and bans on most forms of political protest have projected a less violent image abroad.

But police and soldiers continue to patrol townships where riots still flare from time to time

and many black schools operate with security force members present at all times.

Botha imposed the emergency after troops and police rumbled into black townships on June 12, 1986. The townships were visibly scarred by two years of strife which flared when anti-government rioting broke out in September 1984.

Reporters were barred from any point within sight of widely defined "security force action" and forbidden to publish anything deemed by the government to be a subversive statement.

Photographers and television cameramen were escorted from townships, detained and sometimes beaten as police occupied schools and universities while soldiers patrolled township streets in giant armoured personnel carriers.

At night, security force searchlights swept townships from hillside military camps and police carried out door-to-door searches for activists who had evaded detention without trial.

Allegations of torture have been widespread throughout the emergency, but press curbs prohibit the reporting of torture claims until they have been accepted as accurate by a judge or magistrate.

About 30,000 people, almost all of them black and some as

young as 10, have been detained without charge or trial for periods of a few days to three years.

'Uneasy calm'

At present, 32 of the country's biggest dissident groups are effectively banned, some 600 radical black political leaders have been silenced by house arrest and political meetings are prohibited in most townships.

"Jackboot repression will not dull the instinctive rebelliousness against the tyranny of apartheid," said Jakes Gerwel, rector of the coloured (mixed-race) University of the Western Cape. "The apparent calm ... is an uneasy one."

Fatima Meer, professor of sociology at the University of Durban, told Reuters that emergency rule had helped to create a generation of children immune to violence and death.

"I shudder to think what will happen to our country when these children grow up. What sort of a society can one have with people who have grown up amid such violence and brutality," she said.

Botha gave no indication whether there would be any changes in the regulations, which make it illegal to call for boycotts or foreign sanctions, to seek to undermine the defence force, to report on police activity or unrest

without permission, to attend outdoor gatherings, to hold banners or wear T-shirts bearing prohibited political slogans.

A senior police official, Johan van der Merwe, told a news conference that all 32 organisations banned in the past three years would remain restricted.

He also said restrictions including house arrest, prohibitions on the right to work, speak publicly, participate in political activity, or travel would be reimposed on about 500 people.

About 30,000 people, almost all of them black, have been detained without charge for varying lengths of time during the emergency. After a hunger strike among detainees earlier this year, hundreds were freed, but restrictions were placed on their activities.

Law and Order Ministry spokesman Leon Mellet said at the end of May that 71 people were in detention under emergency regulations which allow them to be held indefinitely.

Police confiscated film and temporarily detained a photographer and others who attended a news conference and rally against reimposition of the emergency held at St. Mary's Anglican Church in downtown Johannesburg Thursday.

Light at the other end of the AIDS tunnel

MONTREAL (AP) — A vaccine developed by polio pioneer Jonas Salk may help wipe out the AIDS virus in people already infected and stop them from getting the deadly disease, according to preliminary research presented Thursday.

"It is becoming clear that a diagnosis of HIV positivity need not be regarded as a death sentence," Salk said.

Salk's approach is one of several newly reported developments that experts say raises hopes that an AIDS vaccine is possible, if still far away.

If the vaccine works as Salk hopes, it will stimulate the body to hunt down its own blood cells that carry HIV, the AIDS virus. Such cells are virus-making factories inside the body, and wiping them out could hold the virus in check, preventing it from spreading and causing

AIDS.

Whether the vaccine will actually work this way is still unclear. Although it has been tested in people, the best evidence of its potential power comes from experiments on chimpanzees, the only animal besides people that can be infected with the AIDS virus.

Experts caution that much more work will be necessary in both animals and people before anyone knows whether the vaccine will save lives.

However, Dr. Dani P. Bolognesi of Duke University, a top U.S. AIDS vaccine researcher, said the new work is promising, in part because it suggests that an effective vaccine can be made for treatment after AIDS infection — something many experts had doubted.

"This suggests it is possible to deal with the virus in already-

infected individuals," he said.

While cautioning that this and other animal studies need to be confirmed, he added, "they are the beginnings, I believe, of piercing the armour that has existed that it would be impossible to protect against this class of virus."

The latest vaccine studies were described at the week-long fifth international conference on AIDS.

Salk's animal studies, conducted with Dr. Clarence Gibbs of the U.S. National Institutes of Health, were performed on three chimps.

Two of them had already been infected with HIV when they received the vaccine. After three injections, all measurable signs of the virus disappeared. And when scientists gave them more virus, they did not become reinfected.

The other chimp was given virus for the first time after vaccination. While this animal got infected, the level of virus in its body has been steadily dropping instead of rising, as usually happens.

Gibbs described these results as "very startling" and said, "we don't want to raise false hopes. But these studies are increasing our understanding about what is necessary for a vaccine for HIV-infected human beings."

Salk said that creating an AIDS vaccine is much more difficult than a polio vaccine, which he developed in the 1950s. And while he would not predict when an AIDS vaccine might be available, he commented, "there is light at the other end of the tunnel. We hope to move in that direction as quickly as possible."

Surprise alibi for Palme murder defendant

STOCKHOLM (R) — A surprise witness said Friday he could provide a watertight alibi for the man on trial for the 1986 assassination of Swedish Prime Minister Olof Palme.

The new witness contacted a local newspaper and told how he saw the defendant, Christer Pettersson, on the night of the murder at a suburban train station less than half an hour after Palme was shot.

The witness was later interviewed, but not identified, by Swedish radio.

"I'm quite sure it was him (Pettersson) because I lived in the same area for years and had seen him hundreds of times," the man said.

Police and Pettersson's lawyer

said they were checking the new information which, if deemed credible, could alter the course of the trial.

A lone gunman shot Palme dead from behind at 11.21 p.m. local time when the prime minister was walking home unguarded through central Stockholm from a cinema with his wife.

It would have been impossible to get from the murder scene to the station within that time.

Pettersson, a 42-year-old Swede with a record of violent crime and drug abuse, pleaded not guilty when his trial began Monday.

He told Stockholm district court he took a commuter train home from Stockholm at 11.46 p.m. after spending the evening

at a night club.

Pettersson said he fell asleep on the train, missed his own station and ended up at the final stop on the line where he waited to catch a train back.

"When I read this, I remembered seeing him on the platform that night," the new witness said. "He was sitting on a bench smoking. He seemed tired."

"I'm sure it was on Feb. 28, the night of the murder, because I remember hearing the news that Palme was killed on the radio the next morning," the man said.

The new witness said he had not stepped forward until now because he had not realised that the man he saw was the one charged with the murder.

Police said it was treating the new information seriously.

"Everything which can favour the accused is given top priority," said Superintendent Hans Olverson, head of the murder probe.

Prosecution witnesses are to testify that they saw Pettersson waiting outside the cinema for the film to end and then following the Palmes down the street.

The key witness is Palme's widow Lisbet, grazed by the assassin's second bullet, who picked Pettersson out from a video identity lineup as a man she saw running from the scene of the murder.

The trial resumes next Tuesday and is scheduled to last until mid-July.



Two women from the Meskhetian Turk minority weep in Fergana, Soviet Uzbekistan after their home was destroyed by mobs of Uzbeks in a weekend of ethnic violence which killed more than 80 people and left another 500 injured

Uzbek mobs grow more aggressive; toll nears 80

MOSCOW (AP) — Mobs in Soviet Uzbekistan are growing bolder, escalating their attacks on police stations despite the presence of thousands of soldiers in the Central Asian republic, the official Izvestia newspaper reported Friday.

The government newspaper said the death toll from the last six days of ethnic violence in the Fergana region in Uzbekistan was nearing 80, and more than 800 people have been hurt.

The region's Yuldashev, has called for "more decisive measures" to halt the wave of arson and murder. Izvestia said, without identifying those measures.

"I think that, taking into account the serious nature of the situation, we don't have enough force yet for its stabilisation," Yuldashev told the newspaper. "Apparently, more decisive measures are needed."

Alexi Yastrebov, a deputy in the Soviet Congress of People's Deputies, said in an interview

Thursday that the new parliament was asked by Communist Party officials in a closed session to approve tougher actions in Uzbekistan.

A group of deputies, including some from Uzbekistan, were scheduled to report Friday to the congress on the latest developments in the troubled region before a decision was made.

The government has brought in more than 9,000 Interior Ministry soldiers, and given them the authority to open fire to protect themselves, but it held back on sending in regular army soldiers, official news reports say.

Reporting on recent attacks on police and the interior ministry building in the city of Kokand, 2,400 kilometres southeast of Moscow, the newspaper said a crowd of thousands managed to seize three pistols and force police to release 12 detainees from jail.

"The actions of the uncontrolled elements are becoming more aggressive," Izvestia said. "More

and more often, attacks are being made on buildings of the interior ministry and police. The goal is to seize weapons. The population is extremely agitated."

Rioters have burned more than 550 houses and nearly 300 vehicles, and 300 people have been detained, it said.

The killing started June 3 in a rampage between ethnic Uzbeks and the Meskhi Turk minority, which was forcibly resettled in the Fergana valley of Uzbekistan by former Soviet ruler Josef Stalin in 1944.

Yuldashev proposed "addressing the problem of returning them to their homeland" in southern Georgia "as quickly as possible."

More than 10,000 of the Meskhi Turks have been evacuated to the safety of army camps. After the recent attacks on the police station in Kokand, the mob invaded a Meskhi neighbourhood and set more than 80 houses and six cars on fire, Izvestia reported.

Solidarity and Warsaw reach compromise deal

WARSAW (R) — Solidarity and the Polish government have hammered out an agreement to overcome a crisis caused by the failure of top communist reformers to get elected to parliament.

Solidarity leaders agreed during eight hours of talks Thursday not to block a government plan to fill 33 seats left vacant by the defeat of the Communists and their allies in order to keep a government-opposition reform pact on track.

The failure of the 33 officials, who could not win more than half the vote despite standing uncontested on a national list of 35 VIPs, threatened to leave the Sejm (lower house) with less than the 460 members stipulated in the constitution.

Solidarity, led by union leader Lech Walesa, made the agreement in defiance of hundreds of members who flooded union offices across the country with angry phone calls claiming they were giving in to the government and cheating the electorate.

"The agreement was about to fall apart," Zbigniew Bujak, a top Solidarity leader, told reporters as he emerged looking tired after the talks in the Sejm building in central Warsaw.

"The looming constitutional crisis was the most important thing because there was a danger that one part of parliament would not be elected at all," he said.

Solidarity ran in the first elections contested by the opposition for 42 years under a reform pact which also allowed it to be re-legislated after a seven-year ban.

The union won 160 of the 161 Sejm seats it was allowed to contest and 92 of the 100 seats in the new Senate (upper house). Its candidates made it into runoff voting June 18 for all the nine seats which it did not win outright.

By contrast, only two communists and three members of the Allied Peasants Party won outright in the first round, according to official results.

The 33 candidates who failed to get elected on the national list included Prime Minister Mieczyslaw Rakowski, who just failed with 48.17 per cent, and other reformers.

Solidarity said it reluctantly accepted a government plan to fill the 33 vacant seats in runoff

after the talks in the Sejm building in central Warsaw.

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votes, but it was not clear if all the defeated nationalist members would run again. Other party officials might fill the vacant places, they said.

"We proposed that the decision over the 33 seats should be taken by the new Sejm (when it convenes) but we understand the difficult situation in our country so we accepted (the government plan)," Solidarity adviser Bronislaw Geremek said.

Union sources said hundreds of outraged Solidarity members had earlier urged their leaders not to help solve the problem.

They said Solidarity spokesman Janusz Onyszkiewicz was shouted at when he tried to explain to Warsaw members that the issue had to be resolved to help preserve the reform process.

Walesa declined comment on the agreement but said: "When Poles sit down to a table they will find some solution."

Interior Minister General Czeslaw Kiszczak, one of the 33 who failed to get elected and the chief government negotiator at Thursday's talks, said he was satisfied.

China turmoil spurs Hong Kong search for foreign passports

HONG KONG (R) — Political turmoil in China has given new impetus to the search by Hong Kong people for foreign passports before Peking resumes control of the British colony in 1997.

"Anybody who was in two minds about leaving Hong Kong ahead of 1997 will have made their minds up now. There's real fear," a Western diplomat said.

Last year 46,000 people, mainly professionals, emigrated from Hong Kong to Canada, Australia and the United States. Analysts forecast that the trend will increase steadily as 1997 approaches.

Diplomats report that applications for emigration at consulates in Hong Kong have risen dramatically in the past few weeks.

"The inquiry rate has gone up between 250 per cent and 300 per cent since events in China started," said John Berry, Australia's acting regional migration director in Hong Kong.

"But we don't expect an immediate rise in actual applications because it normally takes six weeks before we see the results," he added.

Britain has been the colonial power in Hong Kong since 1841.

but the territory's six million Chinese residents do not have the right to live in Britain.

Under agreement with Peking, Britain will relinquish sovereignty over Hong Kong to China in 1997. Both sides are committed to maintaining stability and confidence in the booming colony.

But pressure is building up in Hong Kong for the British government to allow Hong Kong passport holders to go to Britain, a move seen here as a "lifeline" in case of extreme problems when China takes over.

Hong Kong Governor Sir David Wilson, in London for talks with British officials, said Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher had rejected his plea for Hong Kong people to be given the right of abode in Britain.

Wilson said Thatcher told him that allowing all British passport holders in Hong Kong to come to Britain "was a matter of great political difficulty."

Earlier Thatcher had told parliament she might be prepared to be flexible over the issue in light of events in Peking, and that her government would approach parliament for amendments to the British nationality act if neces-

sary.

Some 1.25 million of Hong Kong's Chinese residents hold a form of British passport that acts as a travel document while denying them right of entry and abode in Britain. Another two million have the right to such a passport.

Political analyst Bob Broadfoot of the Political and Economic Risk Consultancy said it was absurd to argue that 3.25 million Hong Kong people would flood into Britain.

Broadfoot predicted that the rise in applications to emigrate would lead to a slow-down in the rate of processing as consulates struggled to deal with the paperwork.

"I think what you are going to get is a bottleneck problem. There will be many, many more people going for the same limited number of places," Broadfoot said.

"For example, Canada had 27,000 accepted last year, but there'll be four times as many that have to be reviewed now. I think people will also be looking at other places in Asia, like Thailand, Singapore and the Philippines," he added.

COLUMN

Indian talks and talks...

NEW DELHI (R) — A 57-year-old Indian talked out of his place in the Guinness Book of World Records last year is trying to talk his way back. The Press Trust of India said S.E. Jayaraman began a lecture Thursday in the South Indian city Madras. He hopes to finish in 15 days or so and reclaim the non-stop talking record. Jayaraman found a place in the 1987 Guinness Book of World Records after discoursing for 200 hours. He was out-spoken by compatriot N.S. Viswanathan with a 240-hour monologue the following year. Jayaraman said he aimed to talk for 300 hours.

Soldiers confined by 'Colonel Crackpot'

LONDON (R) — A British army officer in West Germany confined 200 of his men to barracks for three days after discovering a scratch on his estate car, the defence ministry said Thursday. Lieutenant-Colonel Rod Brummitt issued the order to all his unmarried soldiers under his command at Hamer, near Dortmund, in a bid to find the man who scratched the car. The ministry was commenting on a report of the incident in the Sun newspaper headlined "Colonel Crackpot." The tabloid quoted one of Brummitt's men as saying: "The damage to his car wasn't all that great. And why did he pick on the single soldiers — anyone in the regiment could have done it?" The ministry said Brummitt rescinded his order after telling the soldiers he was disappointed the culprit had not owned up.

Biscuit timer fools would-be robber

BIRMINGHAM, Alabama (AP) — The biscuit timer went off at just the right time in a Mrs. Winner's chicken and biscuits restaurant. A police report said that a man walked into the fast-food place Monday night and demanded money from a cashier. Employees said they saw the handle of a revolver sticking out of the waistband of the man's trousers. About that time the timer sounded to signal that the biscuits in the oven were done. The man thought it was an alarm and ran away empty-handed.

A taste of America to Red Square

NEW YORK (R) — The new breeze of glasnost and perestroika blowing through Moscow could soon bear the aroma of genuine Coney Island hotdogs. The all-American delicacy, topped with mustard or sauerkraut, will be on sale in Red Square by November under an agreement between the Soviet Union and Nathan's Famous Inc., which has been selling hotdogs to hungry New Yorkers for much of the century. "Nathan's hotdogs have been hailed as the most succulent slice of American democracy since they were first served in 1916 at Coney Island," said company chairman Stuart Benson, referring to the New York seaside resort with its amusement arcades where New Yorkers have sought refuge from the summer heat for decades. We are confident that Muscovite shoppers and tourists ... will feel that same sensation when they bite into a Nathan's hotdog," he said. Benson flew to Moscow Thursday to arrange for setting up the venture under a protocol agreement with the Soviet government. The Nathan's Famous restaurant will be located in Gum's Department Store in Red Square. Helping Nathan's in the venture is Shelley Zeiger, an American businessman who last year began selling another American culinary favourite to Muscovites — pizza.

Union sources said hundreds of outraged Solidarity members had earlier urged their leaders not to help solve the problem.

They said Solidarity spokesman Janusz Onyszkiewicz was shouted at when he tried to explain to Warsaw members that the issue had to be resolved to help preserve the reform process.

Walesa declined comment on the agreement but said: "When Poles sit down to a table they will find some solution."

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